

Hawaii Area Assembly
Inform the Delegate
District 6 (Kauai) of Area 17 Hawaii
Of
Alcoholics Anonymous



HAWAII AREA #17
INFORM THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
KAUAI DISTRICT #6
MARCH 27 & 28, 2008⁴

KOLOA HONGWANJI MISSION HALL
OLD KOLOA TOWN
SOUTH SHORE
NEXT TO 1ST HAWAIIAN BANK
ACROSS STREET FROM BIG SAVE STORE

FOR REGISTRATION CALL WILL [REDACTED]
([REDACTED]@hawaii.net)

FOR HOME STAY CARL [REDACTED]

FOR TRANSPORTATION THERESA [REDACTED]

PLEASE PREPAY YOUR REGISTRATION BY MAIL EARLY TO
ALLOW VOLUNTEERS TO BEST PLAN THE MENU

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: (\$25.00)
KAUAI DISTRICT #6
MAIL TO: PO BOX 1503
KAPAA, HI 96746

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ GROUP _____ POSITION _____

E MAIL ADDRESS _____

AIRLINE: _____ FLIGHT _____ TIME _____

HOMESTAY YES ___ NO ___ TRANSPORTATION YES ___ NO ___

SPECIAL DIET CONSIDERATIONS _____

Inform The Delegate Assembly
Kauai, District #6 – March 27 & 28, 2004

Saturday

8:00	Breakfast & Registration		
8:45	Call to Order		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting DCM announcement - Jerry• Acceptance of Recording Secretary Minutes - Marcy• Acceptance of Treasurer report – Lyda• Inform the Delegate process – Kelly• Jerry motion and second by Paul – Table		
9:15	Panel #1	Agenda	West Maui
9:50	Panel #2	Archives	Leeward
10:25	Panel #3	CPC	Waianae
11:00	Break		
11:10	Panel #4	Corrections	CNSD
11:45	Panel #5	Finance	Waikiki
12:20	Lunch		
1:20	Panel #6	Grapevine	Diamondhead
1:55	Panel #7	International Conventions	
		Regional Forums	Kauai
2:30	Panel #8	Literature 1	Manoa & Puna
3:05	Break		
3:15	Panel #9	Literature 2	Honolulu
3:50	Panel #10	Literature 3	Kihei
4:25	Panel #11	Policy and Admissions	East Hawaii
5:05	Hosting DCM announcement – Adjournment		

Sunday

8:00	Breakfast & Registration		
9:00	Call to Order		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hosting DCM announcement• Continue of the Inform the Delegate process		
9:15	Panel #12	Public Information	Maui No Ka Oi
9:50	Panel #13	Report and Charter	Windward
10:25	Panel #14	Treatment Facilities	West Hawaii
11:00	Inform the Delegate process completed – Break		
11:15	Standing Committees report – Line up at the microphone – 7 minutes		
12:15	Lunch		
1:15	DCMs report – Line up at the microphone – 4 minutes		
2:15	Intergroups and Others – Line up at the microphone – 4 minutes		
2:30	Break		
2:40	Keith H. to discuss S & G		
3:00	Area Officers report		
4:00	Hosting DCM announcement – Adjournment		

Inform the Delegate Assembly
Kauai District #6
March 27-28, 2004

Call to Order @ 9 am

Host announcements – Jerry

Acceptance of Recording Secretary Minutes – Marcy

Moved to accept and seconded. Passed with no corrections.

Acceptance of Treasurer Report – Lyda

Moved to accept and seconded. Passed with no corrections.

Inform the Delegate process – Kelly

35 minutes for total panel time. 20 minutes for panel and 10 minutes for group consciences, personal opinions or questions for panel. 5 minutes after that if Don wants to comment or recap.

Disclaimer from Recording Secretary – I have attempted to glean just the kernel of what was said during these panels. If there are blanks in the reporting it could be that there were no written documents submitted for review. All written reports that were submitted will be sent to Delegate Don A. upon completion of these minutes. Mahalo.

Panel #1 – Agenda – Keith H. and Arne P.

This is for the Agenda Committee of the General Service Conference. **We will be talking about the theme of the conference, presentations made by delegates and workshops that are put on by panels of delegates.** Topics will be listed, when you hear something you like, get up and make a comment and let Don A. know about these and which ones you like. *Comments: We have discovered that the elder community is under served and we would suggest that our Delegate place an item on the agenda to discuss how AA is carrying the message to the elder community. We have prepared some background information; Is there anything on the agenda about the timeliness of getting topics prior to the conference? Yes, there is a general item on the questionnaire regarding this; We don't have to wait until today to make these recommendations. We can take suggestions during the year as well. Feel free to present to the Delegate a theme or a topic at any time.*

Panel #2 – Archives – Leeward

Conference committee of archives procedures; The purpose of the Conference Committee on Archives is to discuss the report of the Trustees' Archives Committee and make recommendations regarding archival policies, procedures and materials such as workbook, videos and storage issues. **History of archives- the beginnings of stories and facts of early AA;** In 1955 Bill W. made some recommendations about compiling AA's history, especially its origins. He suggested making tape record of interviews with the "old-timers." He valued people's personal stories and recollections of the earliest days of AA, the difficulties as well as the humor of those years. Interviewee's begin with their own story of recovery along with their impressions and comments on events they directly witnessed or participated in. The General Service Office Archives formally opened its doors in November of 1975. **Trustees committee on archives –** This committee meets 3 times per year and with the Conferences Archives Committee 1 time per year at the Conference. There are 7 trustees on the Archives Trustees Committee. The Committee has been reviewing comments from the Fellowship on the Archives Workbook and

have adopted numerous changes. They also reviewed policies on photocopying and research permission. The Committee has also reviewed and accepted the "Guidelines for Collecting Oral Histories;" **Archives workbook** – the first workbook was produced in 2001. A number of area committees have developed their own archives structures so it became evident that there was a need to publish a collection of shared experience in archive service. Contents were to be regularly updated. Currently the workbook contains the mission statement of archive which is: to receive, classify and index all relevant material, including but not limited to, administrative files and records, correspondence, and literary and artifactual works considered to have historical import to Alcoholics Anonymous. This is the means by which we collect and preserve the rich and meaningful heritage of our fellowship; **Election of the chairperson of the conference committee.**

Comments: (Don A, Delegate) General comments about the process of Inform the Delegate to those who haven't been to this type assembly before. "Please make comments about opinions, feelings, etc. We send this information to GSO. We meet and discuss what all Area's have been discussing with regard to each topic. I stand and give our opinion during these discussions. Either stand up and comment or see me private."

Panel #3 – CPC – Waianae

Contents of the CPC kit and the CPC workbook. I don't see how I qualify to discuss this with you. The workbook is clear, concise and well-done. The kit could be worked on however. Maybe we could come up with a pamphlet that could be directed towards new professional. Maybe middle management people could be targeted as well. A person who works with CPC is running a fine line between promoting and attracting. **Discuss ways CPC can help when focusing on other problems in AA.** I believe if any alcoholic walks in the room with a desire to stay sober, I am responsible. **Interactions of CPC Corrections, PI and Treatment.** These are overlapping; I don't think I did enough investigation. Maybe these committees should communicate and work with each other. Maybe some alcoholics are falling through the cracks. **Ways to improve CPC.** Speaking to counselors not just directors, use the phone book, specific CPC pamphlets, literature for professionals, contact CPC chair. **Other subjects – those with other problems being sent to AA.** Ice epidemic is prevalent here in Hawaii. AA has been the most effective with alcohol and has been adapted for other problems. There is no way to relate to these new AA's as they struggle with other problems or they are "sentenced" to AA. These are reasons they don't get the opportunity for solid sobriety. Our service ends up lacking. We would like to catch these professionals before they become professionals. What about student focus? Discussion of other options for spreading the word. *Comments: my group is very concerned about the dilution of the primary purpose; we would be in favor of a pamphlet called "Primary Purpose." Sometimes we take a group conscience at the time of our closed meeting to determine whether someone with a primary drug problem would be allowed to stay; individual members were taking meetings into the colleges; we are the Big Book walking, let others know; we can do public meetings and invite them in; please inform people about what a closed group is, we are committed to sharing on a more personal level and don't like students taking notes during the meeting; there is a program called Dual Recovery Anonymous, send those with both problems to those meetings.*

Panel #4 – Corrections – Central North Shore District

Discuss the appearance of trustees report; Process report of revision of pamphlet Inmate to Inmate – still looking for stories of young people, progress is slow; workbook is helpful; **Committee report on samples of pre-release** – personal preference was shared between the forms; **Working with training programs for personnel** – don't think we've gone to personnel for this with Public Safety. *Comments by Don A: "This process is also like an inventory of what*

we're doing. I will bring back more information about this topic, because it seems like we don't have enough here. We need stories from youth so this is a call to the community of recovery for this." Other comments: we have two new volunteers for the women's prison. Wednesday evening is the night for volunteers @ the women's unit at OCCC; for young people it might be very intimidating for them to articulate their stories on paper; Maybe on tape would be a good idea and easier for young people; this doesn't address our problem here on Kauai; We don't have the Correction Chair ever at these gatherings to help our corrections person here; I believe that the information is there and we have to go out and get it and that if we don't talk to that one person from the committee we can still get what we need; I am your corrections chair from Kauai and I've never heard from the Area Corrections Chair, I just heard his name was Tom.

Panel #5 – Finance – Waikiki

Finances are often a point of contention and controversy in AA, but money is necessary for us. **Much of the focus today is on spirituality and money.** The process of spirituality and money works together in AA. It needs to be remembered that AA operates more effectively by the donations of its members; self-support – when I first came into this program I hated money. I'm glad I joined this panel because I was forced to read about the 7th Tradition. It keeps AA alive and if that's so it's got to be spiritual; I thought people were getting paid when I first saw the basket passed around; I learned that percentages went to different circles; If we didn't do this plenty of people wouldn't find the miracle of AA; Communication is the most important part of what we do. I don't believe AA money should be used having fun. *Comments: I have found that the 7th Tradition is one of the most spiritual traditions we have. It's about learning faith that we will be provided for. I also believe we should be having fun and welcoming others; the statistics were wrong about how many are contributing to GSO because there were groups listed in my district that do not exist anymore; it's important for us to communicate to our groups what we're doing with this money; what I've heard is that when it comes to finance this group gets ready to fight, since I've been here I haven't seen that; your contributions have contributed to the 4th Edition of the Big Book and having books translated into other languages.*

Panel #6 – Grapevine – Diamond Head

Grapevine items for resale in non AA outlets. Hazelden asked if the magazine was available for purchase. A deal was struck that they would be able to purchase them for a discount and they were not aware of this agreement from 1993. Solutions: Establish a 1 year moratorium on sales in non AA outlets, outline sequence of events that led to this event re: Hazelden, provide full report on the 1993 action. Hazelden was asked not to advertise Grapevines on their website and they have agreed to this. **Cons to this approach** – we may be violating traditions because we are self-supporting through our own contributions. **Pro's** – we'd make more money. **Review proposed pamphlet "The AA Grapevine Our Meeting in Print" with regards to LaVina.** *No report given to secretary for clarification. AA Grapevine workbook be classified as service material and be reviewed regularly.* Description of what service material is as opposed to conference approved material. "I learned the history of the Grapevine and Traditions and it was very fascinating." The guide to the Grapevine (the workbook) is interesting. I thought the Grapevine rep just got people to subscribe. Reading this has the whole history and traditions. There are references to free information. *Comments: At PRAASA I got the opportunity to see Spanish speaking AA members. They wore translator devices and were able to have their sharing translated for others. It was amazing. I had no idea that the Spanish speaking community in AA was so big; this is a deadly disease and I don't know why Grapevine can't be available at bookstores or airports; could be considered affiliation with outside entities; Dave E. (from Grapevine committee) describes history of this issue; concern about other companies making money off the Grapevine.*

Panel #7 – International Convention/Regional Forums – Kauai

Discount for conventions and forums – addresses the words i.e. to “for example”. Wording presents problems for interpretation. It should say “for example.” **Special Forum was held in Kauai** – Some problems were happening in the arrangements for this. There were some drawbacks with length of time, etc. I didn’t know what I was going to get out of it or afterward what I got out of it. I guess what I got out of it was the realization that this is “my” organization. If we want this program to keep going we must participate. **Discuss the anonymity protected photo to be taken at the 2005 convention** – no background material for this item. My questions were: Who brought this up? What is the motivation with this question? Was one taken before? What is the mechanism for anonymity for this? Will someone be sure this doesn’t get to the press? I tried to continue to get some background material to no avail but I did know someone who had the photo. They got their glass out to see if they could identify anyone and they could not. The photo is to be put into a book at the convention. There’s a picture of every international convention since the first one. *Comments: We had a wonderful Forum and never saw our island pull together the way they did. Don A.- We got the interest out there and got the attendance at the Forum. Recap of presentation.*

Panel #8 – Literature 1 – Manoa & Puna

Recovery literature for young people – rewrite the pamphlet “Too Young” – Why not? Consensus from my group would be good, because it’s pretty dated. It might be a good idea to have literature to be revised by the young people in AA. We might want to add specific types of people like skateboarders, computer geeks, gang members, tattooed people, text messengers, rappers, etc. Maybe they need to include information about what happens in meetings. Keeping literature targeted for young people helps them relate. Not only should it be updated, but regularly updated no less than every 5 years. Reading current literature for young people there are some phrases that if you’re not familiar with AA you won’t understand them. **Shorten existing stories and put new stories for young people?** Yes to both of those. This is a great idea because I tried to read them and they’re pretty lengthy. **Comic book for young people** – Yes to this as well. Good suggestion, but “Too Young” is a comic book already. **Consider request a book for teens like “Living Sober”.** This is a great idea. Living Sober is a good book but it is for older people. It looks like a good idea, but will take some time. *Comments: Those of us in AA who got sober as teenagers are the ones that should be working on this; feedback from home group members – yes to rewriting the pamphlet, yes update stories, and it’s too long and reminds us of something that would be put out by DARE; we don’t like the comic book idea, think it’s insulting, split group conscience about the last question but could include a section on how older people could deal with younger people; I have the pleasure of working on another comic book for women and it has vibrant colors; the children of alcoholics read the comic books; I suggest we go out and do these books and let the young people do it; I’ve been going to meetings since I was 14 years old and I don’t think the pamphlets were right. Young people should be treated just like other people in AA.*

Panel #9 – Literature 2 – Honolulu

Revisions to general service office pamphlet – they require some thinking. The first one has a sentence in it that references the Grapevine. They want to change a sentence that reflects that there are senior AA members that are in charge of the editorial staff. We need to go back to the drawing board and be honest about what we want to say. Some members of this panel thought that this could be worded more elegantly. **Request to restore punctuation in Dr. Bob’s nightmare** – in 4th edition as it did in the 3rd edition based on having all preamble and first 164 pages be copied as is for the 4th edition. I reviewed all documents and discovered 11 grammatical changes in the 4th edition (all commas). My opinion is that we must restore all punctuation to the 4th edition in honor of the original document. **Review the draft document of the new comic**

book to replace the pamphlet “It Happened to Alice.” They want to put weather in the new pamphlet – like snow. That means heavy coats and scarves. There are other problems with the representations of the other women in the pamphlet as well. **AA pamphlet re: home groups -** suggested guide for group membership. It will be awhile before this pamphlet changes.

Comments: principle of literature is to communicate and one of the messages we communicate is that we are all alcoholics and part of the message needs to be unity. We could focus on the diversity of weather but don't lose the primary message; There is much need for the literature to reflect the fellowship as it is today. I would like to see the Area to develop a literature committee that would handle things like the Structures and Guidelines.

Panel #10 – Literature 3 – Kihei

Revisions to Spanish Big Book – story solicitation for this book. Looking to keep first 164 pages, etc. This is basically about changing the stories in the back. **Sponsorship pamphlet -** re: can a newcomer have more than one sponsor. The answer “of course” is the issue. The suggestion is that this should be changed to clarify further so it is not recommended that people continue to seek guidance until they get the answer that they want. Eliminate the words “of course.” **Proposed pamphlet on service sponsorship -** What is the difference between service sponsorship and other types of sponsorship? It has been recommended that this get clarified. Some who were questioned who were in service felt that this would be helpful. There were some that believed we had too many pamphlets already. **Intergroup pamphlet** – should there be a pamphlet explaining Intergroup? There has been a draft prepared with this objective in mind.

Comments: I am in favor of this pamphlet on Intergroup; we need representation and money in Intergroup; I think that the sponsorship pamphlet should stay as it is; I believe in pamphlets and would love to see one on service sponsorship and general service; the Spanish community requests that someone from the U.S. be a part of the translation group that helps with this and I am in favor of the service sponsor pamphlet and think this would work very well; some people need more than one sponsor because they are in more than one 12-step group.

Panel #11 – Policy and Admissions – East Hawaii

Report re: laptop computers at the General Service Conference – meeting of the trustees wanted to consider that laptops could be used. Committee suggested developing a guideline policy for PC use. Two year trial period for up to 24 supplied PC's. Have to submit a request in writing. Cost of approximately \$1500 annually. This was easily integrated and they are suggested continued use. They were used only in the general sessions. They had 7 guidelines for continued use that dealt with adequate power, not disturbing others around them, no sounds on keyboards, and all remote connections were disabled, specific area of computer use. **Request for additional Delegate area that includes Virgin Islands South Florida, and surrounding areas -** They are overpopulated and over a thousand groups that one Delegate is representative of. Pro: It will decrease the number the Delegate needs to represent. Florida is growing in population on a yearly basis. It will create more service positions; Area will have less trouble finding meeting places; less travel time and expenses; limits Area opportunity for holding assemblies. Con: don't know if they should do north/south split; this is emotional for some islands and should be tabled for awhile to continue discussions. **Request for policy regarding review and approval of all materials prior to conference** – Pro: conference members would have more information.

request for full conference input on electronic transmissions or CD's – confidentiality is one of the main concerns and also people's anonymity; wanted to be able to assess group conscience and unanimity; concern of copyrighted material; permission to distribute as background materials. *Comments: did they explore having this placed on a website that could be downloaded with a password? Yes, and this was not a favorable due to anonymity; it can be encrypted and for a relatively low cost; please have them look at this as a cheaper way to share information.*

Structures and Guidelines:

General discussion: It wasn't our intent to take a bad document and make it better, but to take a working document and make it current. This should reflect the actual practice of the Hawaii Area. We're hoping you will trust the process. The spirit of what we did was always for the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous. There will be an up or down vote to accept or not the entire document at the August assembly. *Instruction about how to read the master document that reveals the original document and changes.*

Budget information – Lyda B. – Treasurer

We finished the budget today. All of us as the Finance committee will travel around and meet with all districts to review and explain the budget items for next year.

Closed @ 5 pm

Inform the Delegate
Sunday
March 28, 2004

Open with Serenity Prayer @ 9 am
Host DCM announcements
Adjustments to Agenda

Panel #12 – Public Information – No Ka Oi

Public Service Announcements – review information and tracking of PSA- Recommendation is to continue to ensure production quality of PSA's, card of appreciation to the station, continue to give choices. **Changing the tag line to comply with what's being done on the TV** – This is a housekeeping chore to make it uniform. **Living in Chaos** – wanting to make sure that this PSA gets to stations and would need \$30,000 a year. Reason for this is that it will need to be updated on a regular basis. Recommended that they might not need this amount of money each time so need to keep track of spending; also to have this on the web for anyone that wants them can get them. We're saying "go for it." **Oversight of AA's GSO website** - AA has been responsible for the upkeep of the website since 1995. GSO wanted something changed on the website and it was discovered that there was no committee responsible for making the changes. There was a recommendation that GS Board addresses this issue and report back to the PI committee. **Consider that AA membership survey be conducted by area service** – 16 question document. I'm not crazy about statistics but it is an accepted practice. AA has been doing this for about 30 years and then they decided to check it and see if they were doing it right. What has come up as a result of this review is some changes in questions re: drugs, race, relapse, employment status, etc. Should we do it again? Why not, we've been getting some good information out of it. **Films for young people** – I looked at them and thought they were ok, young people looked at them and laughed. They were a little dated. Recommendation is that they be updated and to include those that don't have such a low bottom. *Comments: when they choose AA groups, how do they send them out? DCM or group gets them? We had 2 home groups participate in this survey and it came through the Delegate and went to the GSR's. Whoever's at the meeting at the time of the survey gets to answer it. There might be a cultural lag in GSO and this should be addressed as related to computer and internet services. Might want to ask in the survey about how many people are using internet services to get an idea about what the fellowship is doing in this regard.*

Panel #13 – Report and Charter – Windward

Composition, Scope and Procedure – This committee is made up of about 9 delegates and also GSO staff member. Review service manual and make changes to it and directories and to review the final report. It gets seven days to complete the final report. They meet two times at the conference. It's an incredible amount of work. **AA Service Manual 2003-2004 Edition** – I have reviewed the Service Manual. It tells us about the service positions and job descriptions, Area assembly and activities, committees, annual conference meeting and committees, GS board and the operating procedures, and the Grapevine. It has bylaws, charters and concepts. **General Service Conference Final Report** – if you haven't read one, I recommend that you do so. It represents the group conference of all of AA worldwide. It has all the advisory actions for each year and Area Service highlights. Also it has a detailed budget and a list of all the committee members and conference Delegates. There is a recommendation that the English, French and Spanish translations of the report should be mailed out at the same time. There have been some problems with different timetables of mailing and some were waiting at least a year. **AA directories and consider the usefulness of these** – there are four main directories that are developed. These are very valuable and are to be used as a guide to our AA members when they are planning a trip. *Comments: Is there a way to check back about changes in the charter that are made in the past? Yes there is a book that has these changes in it. You can also find these if you review the final reports. Concerning the final reports for the Spanish and French memberships – in order for all to be included that we can get all communities served properly.*

Panel #14 – Treatment Facilities – West Hawaii

Contents of kit and workbooks – In reviewing these, Tradition #4 needs to be added to both the workbook and the kit, because it is not in there for some reason. Otherwise they appear completely comprehensive. There are no other recommendations other than this. My home group discussed Singleness of Purpose and the statement we came up with is that we provide a safe and loving place for people in pain until they can figure out where they belong. **Experience with treatment facilities** – formed to coordinate the work necessary to deliver services in treatment facilities and bridging the gap from the facility to an AA group in the community. They can supply literature and meet with hospitals and corrections and treatment staff. How do all committees cooperate to better serve? Sometime these are combined into “institution” committees. **Ways committee can help with problems other than alcohol being referred to AA by treatment facilities?** Why do they refer to us? We need to understand what our role is in treatment and how can we reconcile this. We have singleness of purpose so I think we can affirm that we are the treatment of choice for alcoholics. Anyone who has problems other than that but the topic of discussion should be alcohol. We are the oldest, most successful and have more meetings. We need to educate them that our treatment is specific to alcoholism. **Other issues** – Elderly alcoholics need to be addressed. This underserved population often feels it's too late to turn their lives around. What we know is that it's never too late to get sober and live a full and rewarding life. In Area 17 we are developing a “Cooperation with the Elderly Alcoholic” workbook. This will be the tool that will create a consistent way to address this population. Bridging the gap between treatment facilities and the community for elderly patients needs an elderly AA member to take them to their first meetings. We recommend the Delegate to take to the conference – how to inform the personnel in treatment centers on how to work with the elderly and how to bridge the gap upon their release. *Comments: Really appreciate the way Singleness of Purpose has been discussed; my home group had good discussions on this and someone said it's our job to explain about sponsorship and the traditions to new members; I work at a treatment center and actually we give the clients a choice between AA and NA. One of the things we've found is that there are not many NA meetings; the reason people may not think they're alcoholics in AA meetings is that they're in denial; it's about getting people exposed to a 12-step process (from a treatment provider); regardless of how each meeting wants to deal with Singleness of Purpose, I would ask that this be done with compassion.*

Standing Committee Reports

Convention Chair – Lena

We brought flyers for DCM's and Intergroup reps. If you need more, call Clyde. Get his number and he'll get them to you. The numbers from the last assembly that I gave you were wrong. I will give you the right ones now. The convention paid out a total of \$244,766.74. We received a total of \$232,775.33. This represents a loss of \$11,991.41. In 2002 the total number of registrants were 3014, in 2003 the total number of registrants were 2481. We have a prudent reserve in City Bank of \$17,000. *Comments and questions from Area members and responses by Convention Treasurer and Chair.*

Archives – Ted

During the first qtr, the committee focused almost exclusively on an attempt to produce a history of AA on Kauai. We failed because we lacked the archival material we needed to do this. Instead what I've done is produced a summary regarding each and every group on the island. There were 7 groups I didn't even know were available on this island. I have nothing pertaining to Intergroup. There are all kinds of stuff that you can clean out and send to me to fill in these gaps. We are asking for help. We're providing each group a 5 page document that helps produce a history of each group. We are continuing to work on a Hawaii Area Archives repository. We're planning on opening this repository for those with desire and justification and are planning on an April date.

Public Information – Paul

Focusing on thanking those TV stations the PSA that was distributed by GSO. I have also contacted Olelo and they are ~~not~~ carrying this on a regular basis. I support the central distribution by GSO of the material as this will open the door. I am monitoring the State library by getting the Big Books into the library. I'm asking each district to donate at least one book to the library. It's time to start recruiting again. While there has been greater recognition that standing committee work is important few have stepped forward. I have a sign up sheet for anyone who is willing to do this work. I'm having a better response on the neighbor islands than I do on Oahu. I'm going to ask all schools if they're interested and when I get a response I will contact the DCM's.

Mynah Bird – Elizabeth

I went to PRAASA this time for the first time. I thought it was important. As a result I went back to my home group and asked if they could start a fund for our GSR. I was able to attend the newspaper roundtable and learned a lot of things. One of them was about subscriptions. When I first entered into this job, someone told me this was against traditions. At the roundtable they said, what tradition would that be? The single most important thing I've learned is that this is to carry information about this Area. We have turned it into a Grapevine. That's ok but the purpose is to carry information. I've brought beautiful examples of other Area newsletters. We can learn from them. Come and see me if you want to see them. Give me your feedback about this issue. My email address is: mynah-bird.hawaii.rr.com. The next issue's topic is "There is a Solution." The deadline is 8/1/04.

Grapevine – Duane

How many people got their issue for March? March issue talks about people that are near and dear to us, oldtimers. Subscriptions have been down the last three months. The Grapevine is supported entirely from the fellowship. The workbook is a valuable tool for answering questions about the Grapevine. You can use this for a recovery tool with newcomers. They can also go into libraries and doctor offices. Grapevine articles are online for access. www.aagrapevine.org

Corrections – Rick

I wasn't planning on doing this today because the Corrections chair was going to come from him. I got a mild resentment and wasn't going to do it, but I do have a responsibility because I'm doing a lot of work on this committee. What I do is get all the names of those people that volunteer to go into the facilities and make sure that they get all the things done that they need to be approved for the facilities. Tom's phone number is [REDACTED]. Give him a call. I spoke him less than a week ago and he called me back. We shared a lot of information. Please continue to try. My number is [REDACTED]. Dancette is the interisland coordinator [REDACTED]. Give Dancette a call if you have any questions about neighbor island services. We're looking for volunteers. Get some names and get them back to me.

Comments: Concern about the absence of Corrections Chair, some of my home group members have attempted to get in touch with him and have not been successful; I've heard that there is religious material being brought into the facilities; I don't know anything about this; thanks for being in service Rick; we have people in our district that are going into the correctional facilities and they are not interested in Area service; I want to know what's going on with the neighbor islands and that is the job of the Chair.

CPC – Francesca

Francesca read job description for CPC chair. This month we've been focusing on the Judicial system; PO's, judges and attorneys. I do not do this alone. I have people on the neighbor islands that help me. Waikiki has stepped up for Oahu recently. In April and May we'll be focusing on clergy, in July we'll be focusing on the medical and future professionals. We started going to the yellow pages and pick out groups and send them a copy of a letter. I went to PRAASA and had the opportunity of sharing and learning. I tell people that we are not a part of the sentence, but some of us have gotten better. Our message is out there and people are coming to the rooms. I am ordering a tri-panel from GSO and it will be used for presentations. The workbook talks a lot about how we do this work. If you're interested in CPC work and get your district to order this and you can carry that message. *Comments: Clarify your statement about no help on Oahu. This concerns me. Yes, I do the work alone on Oahu. I do need help and Waikiki has stepped up.*

Hospitals – Joe

I wanted to address this issue. I wanted to ask the Area that on our website there's a program for my committee. If you look in the S&G and service manual it's not so much our description for our committee. Do you want to adopt that format for the incoming hospital chair so they'll have an easier time? I got my directions from my sponsor. I really haven't been doing anything since my computer crashed. It's back up now so I'll be getting back on it. Our committees are doing well on all neighbor islands and Oahu. Crickett's doing a great job on Oahu right now.

Treatment Facilities - Albert

I spoke to some of the Bridging the Gap folks. Hilo – everything is going well; Kauai there is a new couple of chair people and you can get information from them; on Maui the substance abuse center we're having one meeting there and it's going well; regarding Oahu there were a few requests and attempts to get in touch with people on the list and we've had some problems; they were no longer interested, phones disconnected, etc. We're going to start this list over again. David L. is stepping up for Oahu. I also have the updated list for all the treatment lists for all the islands.

Cooperation with the Elderly Community – Marian

In February we got a request from Grapevine and we sent a report on to them. Hopefully there may be an interest in focusing on this. Box 459 did an article about our workshops that we've been doing. We moderated two roundtables at PRAASA. We have about 15 people from different areas from the Pacific Region who want to know how we got this going. Major concern is when they talk

about it, they want to throw it into the category of special needs. It is not a special need to get old, it's a blessing. It is another phase of life. There is an incredible denial on the part of the elderly alcoholic. At the Hukilau we will be doing another workshop. We are working on a workbook for this to describe our work of developing this committee. I just talked to Joe about the possibility of getting on the website. I got a message that New York is interested in this committee. The work keeps going on.

Delegate Report – Don A.

This is so exciting. I wish you could see what I see it's so beautiful. David E. said yesterday "The choir is singing." We are the choir of Alcoholics Anonymous. We're proud of our fellowship and what a great choir this is. I see that you are committed to this process and you participate. You are working with me for this General Service Conference and you'll be there with me. Thanks so much for making my job easier. PRAASA report – 36 members from Hawaii Area were there. We participated in panels and roundtables on many different topics. General Service Conference is April 18th - 24th. I will be making presentations of this upon my return for report backs so schedule me ASAP. International Convention is June 30-July 3, 2004 in Toronto, Canada.

Bridging the Gap – Joe

Throughout the past two days I've heard a lot of information and what stands out is we need more communication and that we have to Bridge the Gap to the elder community. People are grateful for us to come and speak about AA. My committee has been trying to reach hospitals in the area. Some hospitals don't want anything to do with our literature in their hospitals. I lost everyone in my committee and I lost my desire to do service. Here is a copy of my presentation. I don't need to stand up here and tell you. If you want to read it, there are plenty copies.

DCM Reports

Darryl – Diamond Head

Doing well. Attendance is good. We have 6 GSR's today. I attended PRAASA and had an opportunity to meet other DCM's and we face the same things they do. It was good to share at the roundtables and brought back some good ideas. In talking to DCM's there it would probably be good to have a district inventory before I leave my position. Other than that it's good to be in service.

Sandy – Puna

Our district has not done much since last assembly. We are contributing to the Area. Sadly our meetings are not very informed and don't want to be. Not even one person would meet with me to go over the information with me. The groups do want to send a rep to the budget assembly and the election assembly. They don't seem to think they are heard. Don't shoot me I'm only the messenger. We do have people going into the prison. I consider myself lucky to be in service.

David – Honolulu

Our district is active. All 10 GSR's are here for this assembly. They are willing to be in service. They get involved in activities and attend district meetings. Workshops are coming, look for the dates. We've been involved in activities such as the Aloha Roundup, Black History month meeting and volunteering on a panel for teenagers at Queen's Hospital. We have been financially stable for the last couple of years and we could use some of this money to send GSR's to this assembly. Downtown lunch is looking for another place; something about rent. We want to thank Kauai for this assembly.

Laura – East Hawaii

Our district has been busy for the Inform the Delegate assembly. There was a dance in February by the HICYPAA bid committee. They are growing and doing more events. They will be helping with AA by the Bay Easter Feaster. See me for more information. April 11 is Easter Feaster. May 31, potluck with district and intergroup. Founder's day and potluck is June 13th. Stephanie and I are doing outreach to our groups and grooming our next generation of service junkies. I may not be able to continue with this position because I may be moving to the mainland to go to graduate school and I wanted to say thank you now.

Wayne – No Ka Oi

Thanks to the GSR's for the panel here. For the district, our GSR's have been active. Our committee is doing research on fundraising. They will be reporting at our next district meeting to report whether to continue with scholarship fund to send folks to assemblies. The fund was also supporting the standing committees. We are having challenges with our budget. Our treasurer came up with a budget proposal and it will be taken back to the groups. Our district has grown and it needs to be more structured. Standing committees are doing a great job. I recently went to PRAASA and had a wonderful experience. This is really why I am in service.

Sam – Manoa

We continue to carry the message. Some GSR's have lost their enthusiasm for service. We were thankful for the opportunity to serve with the Feb. committee meeting. Service to this was so good. Manoa was selected to host the Orientation Assembly next January. The committee reacted with serenity. My hope is that we shall leave the district better than we found it and I think we will. We are saddened by the loss of Lingle Awhile. (this has no connection to our governor's name) The district remains solvent and are grateful to be in service.

Vern – Kihei

Our district is alive and financially healthy. I want to thank our GSR's for their presentation this weekend. Several of us went to PRAASA and we'll have a report back for the district. We have two new GSR's in our district. The special forum was fantastic and well-attended. We do have a budget and it was easily passed.

Darrin – Leeward (Erin reporting)

We have been busy planning for this assembly with an extra meeting to help everyone with their panel presentations. We are also working on planning for the election assembly. There are two new meetings that have started. One is a women's Big Book meeting on Monday nights @ 8 pm @ St. Phils, and the other is a Big Book meeting on Tuesdays @ (looks like "neil" park - sorry) We have 3 GSR's here today.

Dianna – Central North Shore

We had our district meeting on March 18th and there was 5 GSR's there. We do have a budget now. We're looking for the report back from the General Service Conference. I have flyers in the back for the workshop coming up. Thanks to Kauai for putting this assembly on.

Ken – Waikiki

Thanks to Kauai for your hospitality. I have noticed that our DCM has changed. He's married now. The district had the opportunity to bring two GSR's. I attended PRAASA and thanks for making me feel comfortable. I had the opportunity to sit in the CPC roundtable. I see the strength and seriousness of carrying the message but also to have fun. Thanks for being there for me.

Jerry – Kauai

Our island is pushing to establish an Intergroup office. A site has been located and the signing of a lease for the space is imminent. Our most significant effort lately has been to prepare for this assembly. Thanks to everyone who made this assembly possible. I read recently that only about 5% of recovering alcoholics experience everything that AA has to offer, including service. I can say with personal conviction that 5% on Kauai made this assembly possible, and to them I am grateful.

Marianne – West Hawaii

Thanks to the panel for their presentation. West Hawaii had 9 people attending PRAASA. We'll be doing report backs. Our CPC committee has proposed a luncheon seminar for professionals who serve alcoholics in the West Hawaii community. Our PI committee continues to speak at DUI classes, provide meeting schedules and brochures to libraries, B&B's, hotels and resorts. We have a caravan planned for April 20th. We're looking forward to hosting the next committee meeting. Registration forms have been handed out this weekend. Thanks to Kauai for a wonderful assembly.

Bridgett – Waianae

We are trudging along. We have serviced our hospitals with literature and both of our two libraries have a Big Book. They both welcomed our gift. Thanks to the panel. Our caravans are still going. The Eye Opener meeting needs our support. It meeting on Sundays @ 10 am. The Any Lengths meeting has a "raining" place to meet. The address is [REDACTED] across the street from their normal meeting area. I got a letter from New York thanking Waianae for its participation in service at the forum. Our Westside roundup is May 21, 22, 23 and the tickets go on sale in April. See you there.

Denny – Windward

We are staying busy. At this assembly we have three GSR's that district helped fly over here. We passed the 2004 budget at our Feb. meeting. On April 17th we'll be hosting a Sponsorship workshop at St. John Vianney church. May 23rd Delegate report back at Kailua Park. If any other district wants to be a part of that, talk to me. June 27th holding a district inventory and pot luck. Thanks to our panel of presenters.

Intergroup

Valerie – West Hawaii

Nothing to report. We're doing well. We always need reps and volunteers. If anyone has Spanish language skills please let me know. We need you. At the conference this year the Literature Committee will be considering a proposed "Central Office/Intergroup" pamphlet – please pass on this information.

Colin – Maui

Last meeting was March 13th and 19 people attended. I was in PRAASA. In Feb. there were 210 info calls and 2 12 step calls. Literature sales are steady. Our newsletter has an editorial staff which oversees what goes into our monthly newsletter. Our cost of printing our schedule went up. Our Intergroup meeting is looking for a place to meet because our church won't have anything to do with alcoholics. Coming to Maui is the Maui Fest in June. April 11th is the Central Office Bash, April 17 is the PRAASA report back, and June 13 is Founder's Day.

Bob – Kauai

It's been 10 years since we've been trying to get an office. Hopefully having an office will be a great benefit for alcoholics. We'll have a place to hold meetings and answer phones on a 24 hour basis.

Kelly – Big Island Bash

April 2-4th, I don't have registration forms. www.bigislandbash.com you can get them.

Keith – Alt. Delegate

Not going to be at the committee meeting in Kona. Family responsibilities are pressing. All my information will be there. GSR's if you don't have S&G drafts, Lisa has a few more. Go see her. April 10th Oahu intergroup will be holding an inventory. Otherwise I'm doing what's in my job description for the Area.

Marcy B. – Recording Secretary

Just some information about this process this weekend. It has been a challenge to keep up with everyone's comments on the panel, but I will take all reports and try to put a few relevant comments under each heading. I will then put all the reports in an envelope and send them to our Delegate Don A. so he can review them completely, so not to worry.

Lyda – Treasurer

I am setting up budget appointments with districts to review the document prior to the assembly.

Arne – Alt. Area Chair

Went to PRAASA. We got the CD's and are going to post it on the website. I brought back the agenda and forgot them before I got here this weekend.

Joe - Area Chair

Once you get this flyer, give this to Sally so she can post it. Next committee meeting will be on June 12, 2004. Everyone make your reservations early. Issues discussed will be Budget, S&G, Doug's proposal and one hour of leadership sharing. We also will be having a discussion of Bridging the Gap. If you need home stay, call me Carol G. and my number is 361-888-1111. Please call, it'd be nice to know if you need home stay before you get there. We need to mention that home stay is created for only one night and not a whole week. Please be considerate. Standing Committee or Area Officers should be leaving prior to the end of the assembly. The Area pays for their airfare. If you as GSR's or DCM's leave, you have to answer to your groups or district.

Closed @ 3 pm with the Responsibility Statement.

R. J. Sme.

HAWAII AREA 17
INFORM THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY
MARCH 27-28, 2004
KAUAI DISTRICT #6
DELEGATES REPORT

Aloha Friends in General Service

PRAASA 2004 March 5-7, IRVING CALIFORNIA

The first weekend in March, 36 members of Hawaii Area 17 gathered with over 1500 other trusted servants at the 37th PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) in Irvine, California. From Friday afternoon till Sunday Noon we attended panel presentations relating to this years General Service Conference "Our Singleness of Purpose – The Cornerstone of A.A.". Francesca P. our CPC Committee Chair and Rick M. Windward District GSR gave wonderful presentations. Full presentations are in Mynahbird.

On Friday and Saturday evening from 9:15PM to ? we gathered for roundtables relating to our specific area of service. There were roundtables for GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers, Intergroup Reps, Delegates and Past Delegates and Trustees. PRAASA was a wonderful gathering of trusted servants sharing their experience and bringing back to Hawaii information on how to better do their service position and carry the message of A.A.

The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service legacies of AA.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (GSC) APRIL 18-24, 2004

This weekend we are gathered to review the GSC agenda items. We will have participation from the District panels and also from GSR's and anyone who wants to offer comments, suggestions, ideas or recommendations on any of the agenda topics. I will take this information with me to the GSC and use as needed to help me in my voting on each agenda item. It is very important that all voices be heard. I will do my best to pass on your group conscience at the GSC.

“OUR SINGLENES OF PURPOSE-THE CORNERSTONE OF A.A.”
This is the theme for the GSC in New York and our theme for all of 2004 in AA. An estimated 1,300,000 A.A. Members in over 56,000 groups across the United States and Canada are represented by the 93 Delegates at the conference. We participate in Conference Advisory Actions and produce Conference-approved literature for A. A. as a whole.

In May, June and July I will be making my reportbacks to the Area, Districts and individual groups. Please let me know what is best for you. I look forward to representing you at the GSC and coming back to give you my report.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION June 30-July 3, 2005

Information will be available soon from GSO. I'll pass on as soon as I receive anything.

TO OUR DCM's: I always attach to this report information on coming events and reports from GSO or our Regional Trustee for you to copy and give to your GSR's.

We can make a difference in our carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic. We are responsible when anyone.....

In Love and Service,

Don A.

Cell ~~308-7733~~

Hawaii Area 17 Delegate, Panel 53

email ~~don@hawaii.aa.org~~

**Recommendation to Don A. Delegate at the "inform the delegate"
assembly March, 2004**

The Cooperation with the Elder Community committee strongly urges Don A. Hawaii Area 17 delegate to recommend to the General Service Conference in April 2004 that carrying the message to the elder community be an agenda item for the General Service Conference in 2005.

This will be followed up with a motion at the August Budget Assembly that Don A., delegate, write a letter to the General Service office to that effect if the motion is approved by the Area committee.

Phyllis H., Pacific region trustee, has been informed of what is happening with the Cooperation with the Elder Community committee in area 17 and has sent the information on to the General Service Office. She offered to bring up the issue before the trustees.

Submitted by.
Marion B.

Also,

At Nov. 04 Election Assembly,
there will be a motion to make the
"Ad Hoc" Cooperation with the Elder
Community (CEC) a permanent Area 17
standing committee

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND LOOKING AHEAD
AD-HOC COMMITTEE HAWAII AREA 17
COOPERATION WITH THE ELDER COMMUNITY**

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

The disease of alcoholism in the senior population is under-recognized, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under treated. Joe Mc, delegate from Wisconsin, has called it the "invisible" population.

It is a growing health problem worldwide.....This chronologically challenged population is aging rapidly. It has increased from 11% of the total population in 1980 to 12% in 2000, and it is projected that this figure will reach 20% by the year 2050. All around us are seniors whom alcohol has robbed of hope, dignity, and the ability to cope. We A.A.'s hopefully can help some of them to get a new lease on life.

"For years I lived in a jail of my own making. Finally in A.A. I found a home. These 15 years of continuous sobriety have given me the greatest joy and peace of mind I have ever known" said Marion B., "Chronologically gifted" who entered the program at the age of 61.

Older alcoholics are an underserved population. Many feel it's too late to turn their lives around. Without hope they have given up and are waiting to die. Stan B., who entered the program after he was eligible for Medicare, said, "We want to show that with A.A, as a lifeline, its never too late to cork the bottle and start living a full, rewarding life. We can help folks to understand that in A. A. they do not have to do it alone."

An ad hoc Hawaii area 17 committee "Cooperation with the Elder Community" has been formed to address the needs of this underserved population. Workshops at the Minneapolis International, Hawaii State Conventions, and PRAASA encouraged attendees to carry the message to the older alcoholic. Inventory sheets have been widely distributed and completed. (see attachment) and have revealed the fact that very little work is being done in this very crucial area. Meetings and workshops have been done. Professionals who work with the elderly, senior citizen groups, retirement communities, AARP, and wherever seniors gather are being contacted for literature distribution, (pamphlet-"AA for the Older Alcoholic- Never Too Late", meeting lists, etc.) and to describe what A.A. is and what

A.A. isn't. Much service work needs to be done in this area. (see attachment as to some work that has been done).

LOOKING AHEAD

The need has been identified to carry the message to the older alcoholic through "Cooperation with the Elder Community" independent of the Public Information, CPC and Special Needs committees, Area 17 has acted to meet this need as an ad-hoc committee.

Looking ahead:

Establish a standing "Cooperation with the Elder Community" committee. The area organization can provide operational and financial support for the efforts to carry the message to the elderly alcoholic.

The Stated Goals of the Committee would be met annually:

a. DCM's to appoint CEC chairs in each district and committee is formed.
b. CEC Standing Committee in coordination with the other standing committees and working with each district will establish action steps needed as follows:

i. Identify and list all target residential facilities and residential concentrations with large numbers of elder citizen. This will be a needs inventory to include the names of the facilities or groups with addresses and the name and telephone number of the contact persons. The groups or facilities may be either private or public, sectarian or religious. This needs inventory should include a list of all professional groups that have impact on elder health care and well-being. These needs surveys should be completed during each panel rotation preferably at the beginning of the panel. These needs surveys shall be kept in the files of the committee.

ii. Contact professional groups and key individual who serve the health and well-being of elders. Discuss what literature, workshops and meetings can be offered to all high priority professionals. Keep minutes and records of contacts with names, addresses and telephone numbers of the group or individual. After initial contact and feedback evaluate and prioritize list of elder groups or communities.

iii. Contact facilities and communities on priority list. The groups and facilities will be contacted a minimum of once annually in writing to introduce the committee and the services that it can provide.

iv. Literature, workshops and meetings will be offered to all high priority communities. If any of these services is accepted a written record will be kept of the literature, workshops and meetings provided with

sufficient data to allow for an estimation of the number of persons to whom the message has been carried.

v. Develop and present the work of the committee to the administrators of the identified groups and facilities. This presentation should be designed to address the need of administrators rather than prospective members of the fellowship. The committee will liaison closely with G.S.O. and other professional groups and other A.A. areas to produce and periodically update a standardized set of materials which will allow for the relatively easy training of new persons to make these presentations. These presentations are for general informational purposes. They are presentations which discuss the need for access to the A.A. fellowship or members of the elder community who identify themselves as alcoholics and request contact with A. A.;

vi. Upon invitation establish A.A. meetings at facilities to enable travel challenged people to attend meetings. Develop and present materials which will be easy to use for a district or group which wishes or is asked to assist with an A. A. meeting for the inviting group or facility. These materials should follow the literature and program of Alcohol Anonymous. These would be what would be considered by members of the fellowship an A. A. meeting;

vii. Develop process and procedures for establishing a telephone list for Intergroup offices to respond to calls from the elderly to be provided to the Intergroups in the area;

viii. Develop process and procedures for the districts and groups to develop volunteer driver lists to help travel challenged elderly get to meetings;

ix. Develop the process and procedure for providing the wide distribution of literature where seniors gather such as drugstores, senior citizens groups, AARP, etc.. This should include sample of the written letters to the entities' president, home or regional offices for permission to disturb at these sites. These contacts with records of date, nature and person contacted will be kept in the committees' files;

x. Develop the process and procedure for contacting and offering services to key professionals who serve the elderly in cooperation with CPC. These contacts with records of date, nature and person contacted will be kept in the committees' files;

xi. Develop and implement a public information and media program to disseminate information on A.A. to the elder population in cooperation with the other Area standing committees to create synergy.

AREA "COOPERATION WITH THE ELDER COMMUNITY" INVENTORY

This handout is a suggested inventory that may be used by a member, a group, a district, an area or an intergroup to further carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the older alcoholic.

1. Are there organized efforts in my (our) community to carry the message to older alcoholics? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

2. Do my (our) local committees arrange Public Information Meetings to provide information about A.A. to people in retirement communities, senior citizen centers, or other places that seniors gather? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

3. Are there regularly scheduled A.A. meetings in retirement centers in my (our) area? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

4. Are meetings brought to older members who are home-bound because of illness? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

5. Is literature in large print such as the Big Book, A.A. Service Manual, the new pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late", available for the older alcoholic? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

6. There is "A Brief Guide to A.A." (a cassette recording of several Conference-approved pamphlets) and audiotape cassettes of the Big Book, Twelve and Twelve, and A.A. Comes of Age. Are these available for the older alcoholic? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

7. How can we better disperse this information? _____

8. Have meetings been held for folks who have come into A.A. later in life to share their experience, strength and hope in your group, district, area? Yes___ No___ Don't know___

9. Share thoughts and ideas about what we can do to better carry the message to the older alcoholic who still suffers

Return to Marion B. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].com [REDACTED] 52 [REDACTED]

Update March, 2004

“COOPERATION WITH THE ELDER COMMUNITY COMMITTEE”

July 2000, Minneapolis....International Convention....workshop “Carrying the Message to the Older Alcoholic”....Marion B., chair

November 2000....request for Marion to write her story for update of “Never Too Late”, story accepted by GSO literature committee.

November 2000 request to do workshop at Hawaii Convention....request too late.

November 2001....workshop at Hawaii Convention “Serenity not Senility”....Marion B., Stan B., Marianne F. Jeff F.

August/September, 2002....box 459 article “Honolulu AA’s Help Older Alcoholics Say Aloha to Serenity

August Assembly 2003....workshop at Area Assembly....Marion B., Stan B. Sandra S., Francesca...Area Committee on “Carrying the Message to the Elder Community” formed chaired by Marion B., Stan B., Sandra S.

September 2003.....information meeting at Regency, senior residence Sandra S., Stan B.

Literature distribution....Regency, Kaiser, Office of the Aging, Libraries, etc.

November, 2003.....workshop “Carrying the Message to the Elder Community”, Marion B., Stan B., Ron B.

February, 2004....request from Grapevine for info on work being done in carrying the message to the older alcoholic.

February, March, 2004....box 459 .”Workshop in Honolulu Points Way to Reach the Older Alcoholic”

March, 2004....Marion and Stan B., Ron B. moderate two roundtables at PRAASA on “Cooperation with the Elder Community”. Follow-up calls from Southern California interested in setting up committee to meet the need.

March, 2004....Marion B. panelist at “Inform the Delegate” assembly Area 17 in Kauai “Carrying the message of the elderly community in Treatment Facilities”.

March, 2004....Stan and Marion B. presentation before the Kailua, Kona Senior Citizens Group “The Disease of Alcoholism”

April, 2004....Marion and Stan B. workshop at 1st annual Hukilau Waikiki Convention. “Serenity not Senility”

**ROUNDTABLE REPORT "COMMUNICATION WITH THE ELDER
COMMUNITY"**

PRAASA, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 5, 6, 2004

Friday March 5,

Moderators: Marion B. Stan B.,

Marion and Stan shared the history of the effort to carry the message to the older alcoholic starting at Minneapolis in 2,000 up to the present.

Those present were of the opinion that the elders that were drinking alcoholically were difficult to reach and when reached their denial of the problem was more adamant than younger people.

Merl from Ca., DC from Palm Springs and Maury from Utah shared their experiences working with the elder community. Problems appeared to be more prevalent than solutions.

All present agreed that the effort was needed and that carrying the message to the older alcoholic newcomer presented unique challenges.

Submitted by: Ron B.

Saturday March 6

Moderator: Ron B.

Ron told his story and described the work he is doing in Wisconsin in carrying the message to the elderly newcomer.

The sharing both Friday and Saturday night indicated that there are vast numbers of elderly needing our program and not getting it.

Major reasons:

- * Denial on part of elderly
- * Denial on part of family of elderly...."Oh let Uncle George have that drink in his waning years."
- * Physicians and other health care professionals not addressing the issue of alcoholism. When an elderly person sees his physician for a broken leg, the M.D. doesn't ask why he fell. M.D. just fixes the leg. Alcoholism, the cause of the fall, is not identified. As a result alcoholism is sadly neglected in the elderly.
- * "Oh we don't have any of those".....manager of elderly residence's response when asked if an A.A. flyer could be posted.
- * Identification of drinking behind closed doors a problem.
- * Late onset of alcoholism another issue not addressed.
- * Escalated drinking resulting from retirement, loss of spouse, boredom, slowing down and then denial of the alcoholism is a tough nut to crack.

* Elderly not responding to younger A.A.'s. Perception of nothing in common. Helpful suggestion....12 step call better made by A.A. elderly

* Setting up of meeting where elderly gather was identified as a challenge.

* Transportation to meetings a problem. Suggestion.... Volunteer driver list at Intergroup specifying meetings available to drive with just names and numbers exchanged. Drive not set up by Intergroup or Central Office.

Unique and special problems of the alcoholic.....

"Late onset alcoholism"- John Smith retires after a high power career, plays golf daily and is finished by noon.....nothing to do.... He drinks to fill his time and within a short time he is drinking alcoholically.

Widow...loss of husband, the glass of wine at dinner turns to a bottle and hidden alcoholism sets in.

Denial on part of senior, their family and their health care professional.

Tough tough, situation. Helpful to bring one's own senior story to this population.

Starting a meeting in a gated community.....not considered an A.A. meeting but can be seen as same and contributions can be sent in anonymously.

Action plan.....develop plan to reach the elderly alcoholic through literature distribution, public information meetings at elderly residences, senior citizens centers, wherever seniors gather. Also info to the health care professional and others who work with seniors.

A table display of material was set-up and some pertinent materials were available for distribution. Attendees all signed in and requested to be added to the Cooperation with the Elder Community Area 17 ad-hoc Committee for information, data, and a potential workbook in the works.

Submitted by Marion B. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] m

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING REPORTBACK
FROM THE "COOPERATION WITH THE ELDER COMMUNITY"
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 4, 2004

Marion B. and Stan B. co-chairs of the "Cooperation with the Elder Community" committee presented a program at the Senior Citizen's meeting entitled "Problems with Alcohol".

Stan led the discussion by telling a brief personal story of what it was like, what happened, and what it is like now. He continued with a description of the underserved, ever-growing elder population that potentially has the disease of alcoholism. Statistics and figures about the growth of the senior population plus information from governmental sources indicated this problem has not been addressed. He described what Alcoholics Anonymous does provide as a service for the elder alcoholic.

Marion described a brief report of her story identifying that she entered the program at the age of 61 and is now 76. The past 15 years sober in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has been the best 15 years of her life. She described what alcoholics Anonymous does not do. She identified the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic-Never Too Late" that was available plus meeting schedule of the West Hawaii district. She also offered to take anyone to an open meeting if they wished to go.

A visual display was available for review. And every senior present took a pamphlet on the way out. Six members picked up meeting schedules. Two seniors present who are also members of our program were most enthusiastic about the presentation despite initial concerns about an anonymity break.

A follow-up thank you letter was sent to the president of the Senior Citizen's group for giving us the opportunity to present our information.

The committee feels this is a worthwhile endeavor and will contact other Senior citizen groups in the area.

In love and service,
Marion B.

Dear Mary,

We of the West Hawaii district "Cooperation with the Elder Community" of Alcoholics Anonymous wish to thank you and the members of the Kailua-Kona Senior Citizen's group the opportunity to present to you our concerns and our methods of addressing this tragic problem.

Today, we hear a great deal about alcoholism among young people. Far less is said about the alarming increase in alcoholism among older persons; a fact that is causing concern to everyone involved with alcoholism, and with recovery from this serious illness.

Our experience shows that even those with no drinking problem of their own find such programs intensely interesting, for in our society almost everyone has a relative or friend whose drinking is a cause for worry.

We enjoyed the meeting and the warm greetings you extended to us. If we can supply your organization with literature or any additional information, please write or call.

With much aloha,

Marion and Stan B. 