"Having had a spiritual awakening, as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

He said: There is one purpose to do the steps, and it is outlined in the first five words of the Twelfth Step: "Having had a spiritual

awakening." The step says that this is THE result of working the steps, not A result. The rest of the benefits we gain from having worked the first eleven are not the point. Spiritual development is.

So what, exactly, is a spiritual awakening and how does it work? And how the hell do we have one? Appendix II of the Big Book describes it as a "profound alteration in his reaction to life." That's it. And it happens all the time.

I recently had the pleasure of seeing a sober friend have that profound alteration. We hear them in meetings all the time. Most of the time, it's super simple. I mean, how many of us have heard, "I didn't react the way I used to" or "I didn't say what I would've said," or "Normally, I would've punched him."

Each time we react differently to a situation, especially one where there is a pattern of behavior (like one we documented in the Fourth Step over and over), it is evidence of a profound change that has occurred. I never thought about that. I was as surprised as everyone else when I didn't become instantly sullen when I didn't get my way, or fly off the handle when someone tried to control me. But it didn't seem like a big deal.

The big deal, for me, came when I put all these little moments together and built a life completely different from what I had come to expect. Then I could see the profound change in my life. When the relationships I had torn apart were better and different than before, I could see the progress.

The trouble is that we all backslide. We all go back to those old ways of thinking. And there's only one way to prevent it from continuing: by doing something for someone else. As Bill said over and over "Faith without works is dead."

Service is the drug I always wanted. It gives me the same instant relief from my cares and worries that I was looking for in a bottle. It allows me to think outside



Something fundamental inside of us changes when we do these 12 Steps. A deep desire to stop drinking brings

us to the thresh hold of change. But the willingness to completely let go of our old way of thinking is what opens the door to freedom.

Consciously or unconsciously I have always been looking for a way to be in this world. I have struggled toward happiness and a spiritual awakening countless times. Yet none of my attempts ever resulted in a lasting improvement. My fundamental reactions to life stayed the same. What was I missing?

To tell the truth, I could never figure that out. Not on my own. Still, I stubbornly held onto the idea that I, "I' could find the answer.

Inside of me there was a complex set of conclusions I had drawn about how to deal with the world. They were based on fear and the debilitating constructs of my own imagination. Even so, my own mind was a mystery to me. I was powerless to change my thinking. Alcohol medicated my suffering for as long as it worked. Eventually it stopped working.

There were two things on the walls of my first AA meeting place that I read every day. One was a twin poster listing the 12 Steps of the program and the other was a small sign that said 'Expect a Miracle'.

I didn't see how these 12 Steps could possibly result in a spiritual awakening. It seemed too simple. But I was ready to try anything. I decided to expect that miracle.

What I found out was that I was going to have to let go of my old way of thinking, completely. And that is not easy to do. But the 12 Steps of AA are perfectly designed for this purpose. Guiding me to discover, disclose and discard my old ways of thinking and being is part of their purpose and was their result.

In the synergy of all 12 Steps I find 'the way out', the way to be in the world. Step 12 tells me to 'practice'. For me it is a continual process; Practice letting go of my old ideas, practice trusting God to change me in a way that







myself and feel happy pretty much instantly. I have an instant positive reaction when I help other alcoholics. That being said, I still find it hard to do sometimes.

I often worry that I'm going to get taken advantage of; that I will end up an AA doormat, despite all evidence to the contrary. And then I get twelfth step work wrapped up with some kind of expectations, which always leads to hurt feelings. But I always return to service because it feels so good when I do it.

As formerly the most uncomfortable guy in any room, I have been given the unique gift to be able to pick out the guy who has taken my place. I am uniquely qualified to help him get through it. And it's something I often relish. I use it whenever I get uncomfortable today, in AA or not. If I'm at a party or in a group, and my head starts going, the first thing I do today is look for something I can do to help, whether it's grabbing the uncomfortable guy, giving a hand to the host or hostess, whatever.

Once I pitch in, the fear is gone and I've become a part of the group. It's the same in AA. Once I did service, I truly became a part of AA.

Tom F., Kauai

From Our Readers Your Thoughts on Step 12

- ❖ Remember, you cannot transmit what you do not have, but you DO transmit what you have. So if you have a selfish, self seeking attitude that is what you will transmit.
 Sobriety date 10/15/04
- ❖ Striving to practice these principles in all my affairs is a tool for me to maintain some semblance of sanity in my recovery. I ask for God's help and then it is up to me to do the work. I like to ask myself, "How are you living today?" to keep me focused.

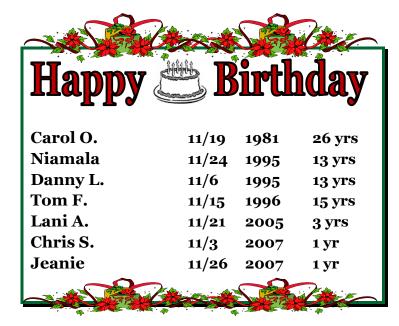
 Sobriety date 2/2/07
- ❖ Practicing the principles in all of our affairs means to me just doing the next right thing. Doing the next right thing enables me to be a channel of God's peace and to carry the message with a healthy spirit.
 Sobriety date 5/10/08

EXPECT A MIRACLE

makes me more useful. It is a continual refinement.

Willingness is the gift that alcoholism gave me. Only by suffering its ravages did I become entirely willing to let go. For an alcoholic the energy of life becomes an alarming downward spiral. It is fueled by a deathly obsession with alcohol that no one but a fellow alcoholic can understand. In helping each other we help ourselves. In a surprising way this affliction can become our salvation by the grace of a God who turns all things to good, for those who turn to God.

Linda B., Kauai



~About Publishing Birthdays~

Birthdays will be published the month following their occurrence. Contact Jerrie S. luv2bnh@hawaii.rr.com

Birthday Celebrations South Shore

- ➤ <u>Koloa Aloha Women's 'As Bill Sees It'</u> 4:30 p.m. Last Monday of the month. Cake & Potluck.
- > Aloha Group 7:30 p.m. Last Tuesday of the month. Cake for Birthdays!

East Side

- ➤ <u>Hui Ohana</u> 7:00 8:00 a.m. Last Saturday of the month. Cake for Birthdays!
- ➤ <u>Steps to Freedom</u> 6:30 p.m. Last Monday of the month. Cake & Potluck (7:30-8:30 pm meeting).

North Shore

- ➤ North Shore Aloha Group 7:30 p.m. Last Monday of the month Cake for Birthdays!
- ➤ <u>Princeville/-Hanalei Group</u> 7:30 p.m. Last Thursday of the Month. Cake for Birthdays!



CHRISTMAS EVE, DEC. 24TH

- * 7:00 pm Pupu Potluck and Fellowship.
- * Bring your Musical Instruments.
- * We'll be there until Midnight. Or until the last elf leaves.

CHRISTMAS DAY, DEC. 25TH

- * 10:00 am Potluck with turkey provided.
- Bring your favorite Christmas Dish.
- * Bring presents for the kiekis



MORE WILL BE REVEALED BY FLYERS DURING DECEMBER!!



WE ARE PLANNING A PARTY!

- * Location: Poipu Beach Park
- Potluck: Bring 'the kind'
- * Music: Bring your instruments
- Games: Whatever you like

Please contact Mo 651-9116

MORE WILL BE REVEALED
IN DECEMBER



For Newcomers

Going through The Steps

My experience with The Steps has allowed me to have a better understanding of myself, my illness and my place in the community.

Beginning with Step One, I admitted and accepted the fact that I am powerless over alcohol and my life was and is unmanageable by me alone.

Step Two opened my mind to the possible existence of a power greater than me that would relieve me of the awful obsession and compulsion destroying me.

Step Three opened a door that allowed that power to become an integral part of my life. I entered into a contract with that Power and agreed to behave in a manner that would bring relief from the pressures of daily living, the root cause of my alcoholism.

Step Four allowed me to empty the trashcan that I had become, by putting on paper the journey that I had taken and the actions and behaviors that I exhibited before, after and during my drinking career.

Step Five brings me to sharing these killer secrets with someone else who has had the same experiences in life, survived and overcame them, using the process outlined in the Big Book.

Step Six is the process by which I am willing to allow this power that I have come to believe in to relieve me of the defects of character that made my life so frustratingly hard.

In Step Seven I petitioned this Power to take away all the defects of character that make it hard for me to relate to my fellows and to Him.

Step Eight is derived from the list in Step Four; I used it to ascertain the past damage I had caused.

Step Nine is the actual reparation of the damages that I caused. It is one of the many action steps that make the process work.

Step Ten is making the daily effort to keep my life in order and to keep my behavior and actions from piling on the damages of the present.

Step Eleven is where I ask in prayer for my Higher Powers direction for my daily life and in meditation I seek the answer from Him as to which direction and action I should take.

Step Twelve is simply realizing that I have a changed attitude about myself, others and God. Having followed the process as best I could I tell others how I did it and continue to follow the process on a daily basis.

By the Grace of a Loving God and the Program of AA I am sober today.

Keep Coming Back A Day at A Time,



The Orientation Assembly For New GSR'S

On January 24-25 2009

- Location: The Lihue Neighborhood Center, at 3353 Eono Street.
- Purpose: To familiarize the new GSR's with their duties and how Hawaii Area 17 functions.
- Format: 'Roundtable Sharing Sessions'.

Kauai, we need help.

Transportation We need help to pick up these people from the airport and also to take them back.

Homestay If you have an extra room and bed you can help us by taking these GSR's to your home for one night only – **Saturday, January 24.**

Food you can also help by preparing meals.

Be part of this **Service Experience** by calling:

Transportation: Alejandro 652-3128 **Homestay:** Darryl 652-9234

Food: Mo 651-9116

AA JHotline 245-6677

~A Fond Farewell ~

As of December 31st I will no longer be the phone contact person for the Hot Line. If you have any problems or questions, please direct them to the Intergroup Chair (soon to be decided). I wish I could give you the name of a contact person but so far no one has stepped forward. Time will tell.

It has been a pleasure serving you these past two years and it has been a rewarding position. Being able to help others by merely answering the phone is really an amazing blessing.

May your Higher Power be with you, Jerrie S.

TO FILL THIS SERVICE POSITION PLEASE CONTACT:

Jerrie S. at luv2bnh@hawaii.rr.com

or

Kathryn B. at kbankhil@yahoo.com

Niumalu Pavilion Educationals



THE FINAL WORKSHOP IN 2008

12/28/2008 SUNDAY HOW WE DID IT "How to present a Workshop"

For More Information Call Alejandro 652-3128 or hernandea040@hawaii.rr.com



Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly Oakland, California, March 6-8, 2009

- The 42nd PRAASA Assembly will be held at the Marriott City Center Hotel and Convention Center at 1001 Broadway, Oakland CA 94607. Room reservations can be made by calling 1-800-991-7249 (reservation code palpala) or by typing the following link into your browser: http://marriott.com/oakdt?groupCode=palpala&app=resvlink
- The hotel is close to the 880 Freeway and Oakland International Airport. Travel from the airport to the hotel will be by shuttle and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train. BART trains are also available from the San Francisco International Airport and a BART station is just two blocks from the hotel.
- Detailed travel and registration information will be available on the www.praasa.org website approximately May 2008. We have over 400 rooms reserved at the Marriot City Center with overflow rooms available across the street at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. Single/double occupancy rates are \$107 per night with additional roll-a-way beds available at \$15 (maximum 4 guests in a room).
- All PRAASA meetings will take place at the Marriott City Center Hotel convention facility providing seating for over 2000 in the main hall and more than 20 break-out rooms. The spacious hospitality suite is on the top floor of the hotel with a magnificent view of the Bay Area.

Until the PRAASA 09 website is active, please feel free to contact the PRAASA09 committee with questions at chair(iipraasa.org or hospitality(iipraasa.org, or write us at PRAASA 09, PO Box 70373, Oakland, CA 94612-0373.



~ Let's Hear it from the Old-Timers ~

As a senior citizen, and member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I continue to be amazed at the commitment of those members of the Young Peoples Group who carry the message. It just makes me blush. Their efforts on behalf of the alcoholic who is still struggling should be bottled and given to each of us who have become complacent and are resting on our laurels

Some of the Young Peoples Groups work almost non-stop to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and welcome to all who may enter. I wish my grandchildren lived here because I would "suggest" that they might want to attend one of the gatherings held at Lydgate, in the water, with "floaties". What a great concept! There are many who deserve accolades for the way they practice the twelfth step. I wish I had half the energy and persistence as these young people and applaud their hard work and effort to give back what was so freely given.

Now if I could just get onto a raft and float out for the meeting I would go, but the very thought of getting into a bathing suit (oh please don't give me started) then walking (or being towed out) into the water for a meeting, and worse yet, trying to climb out of an inner tube with my "laurel" facing the shore, sends shivers of fear into my heart. So, young people, keep up the good work, I will applaud from the shore with my iced mocha and umbrella. I will walk the walk on shore while you walk the walk in the water (sounds like a biblical passage)....chuckle.

By Jerrie S., Step Sisters in my home group

HOPE at Hina Mauka

YOUR OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

- Where: Hina Mauka Lihue / Outpatient Program
- When: 3rd Wed. each month (one time per month)
- **Time: 11am 12 noon**

Contact Bebe - 639-6919 or aloha@yourbeach.com



Traditions Checklist

from the AA GRAPEVINE

Tradition Twelve:

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

- ✓ Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
- ✓ When I do trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
- ✓ In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
- ✓ Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
- ✓ Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
- ✓ Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition or belie it?
- ✓ Do I do all I can to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
- ✓ Do I complain about certain AAs behavior especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
- ✓ Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
- ✓ Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
- ✓ Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
- ✓ What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?



Request a newsletter by e-mail



At: District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Kauai Intergroup

Aloha All and Mahalo for all your service in the past two years to the fellowship in Kauai. Don't forget to send an Intergroup Representative to our elections held December 6th at Hanama'ulu Pavilion, 9:30 AM. Call Susan O for directions.

I just returned from the 47th Annual Convention in Honolulu. We heard our very own Moises speak from the podium at the Thursday evening meeting. What an honor he had to be representing the fellowship in front

Friday morning about 1,500 people were there! At 8:00 a.m. Laurie L. served as secretary, Heather, Alejandro and Moises as readers and Darryl C. and I as speakers for the first of many meetings in the outer rooms. These meetings were continuous during the day. On Friday and Saturday there were both Al-anon and AA meetings. Much to my surprise these meetings were being recorded and offered for sale to participants as well as on line. I still have not listened to the recording. There was a very dynamic speaker on Friday night from the main podium. Several of us bought the CD and we might just be willing to share it with you.

I attended my first Honolulu Convention in 1982 and have a special place in my heart for the event that gave me the first real feeling of being "a part of" I love to go sit with my sponsor and see old friends as well as the new friends I meet each year. The State and Country Countdown at the Sunday morning Spiritual Breakfast is always fun and the "meeting after the meeting" party in the park was incredible! The weather was perfect and the hospitality more than I could wish for. I am truly inspired by our fellowship and the people who give freely of their time to service in Hawaii.

QUOTES FROM KAUAI ATTENDEES:

- **"My weekend was amazing!** I think I will do it again and if it is God's will I'll go to the International In 2010. By the way if my math is correct I saw 17 fellow members from Kauai at the convention." - Alejandro
- **"I saw people in service** as always, bonded with friends and made new ones. At the end I came home with new memories!" - Moises
- **The highlight for me** was the party in the park with the music, great food and beautiful weather it was just what I needed." - Laurie L.

"One of the highlights for me was seeing my sponsor and all my new friends from the Hilo Fellowship! I went to a few Alanon meetings for the first time... great! Also for the first time I went to the Alkathon in the Ala Moana hotel at 10 pm on Sat. night. By the time the meeting was done, it had gone from 8 people to 50!At the Speaker Meeting a local lady, originally from Moloka'I, gave a great talk. Another highlight was the sobriety count down and the thunderous clapping as they announced each year, awesome! I saw an older fellow with 53 years on stage waiting to find out who would have the least sobriety. Finally a young girl went up with barely one day. I was overwhelmed with tears as he signed and presented her with the big book! That WAS thrilling! God Bless them both!"

See you at the Thanksgiving Gratitude Dinner! "WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT"

- Kathryn B



ELECTIONS will be HELD

At The Next Intergroup Meeting

December 6th 9:30 am



At The Hanama'ulu Pavilion

Intergroup Officers

Chair. - Kathryn B. 634-4185 kbankhil@yahoo.com

Alt-Chair - Mark M. 822-0137

Treasurer Susan O. -.639-5904 <u>aloha96746@yahoo.com</u>

Secretary - Heather C. hjckauai@gmail.com

Literature - Tom R. triumph@hisemail.net

Alt. Literature - Danette M. 631-9177

GIS Newsletter - Linda B. 822-2320 linbonds@msn.com

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i Intergroup PO Box 3606, Lihue, HI 96766 Please put your Group Name on the check.

Kauai Intergroup Treasury

Current Report

Beginning balance	\$ 2,567.26
INCOME	
Group Contributions	S
Anonymous	15.00
Happy Hour	212.54
North Shore Aloha	240.00
	467.54

Book Sales

74.46 **Happy Hour** Niumalu Workshop 32.08

106.54

TOTAL Income 574.08 **EXPENSES**

Alcathons, Events 260.00 25.00 Grapevine, Literature Literature Locker (10.00)75.00 Niumalu Workshop **Schedules** 235.41

TOTAL Expenses (585.41)**Ending balance** \$ 2,555.93

Service is Sobriety



Our Area 17 Delegate is

Vernon G. alive@hawaii.rr.com

A NEW PERMANENT ADDRESS! Now make checks payable to: Hawaii Area Committee And ADDRESS IT EXACTLY LIKE THIS

Send Area Contributions



To: Hawaii Area Committee #2107

575 Cooke St., Suite A, Honolulu HI 96813 Please include "District 6" & Group Name on the check

DCM CORNER

NOVEMBER 2008

- This has been an amazing 2 year experience for me as your DCM. So much has happened on our island as participation in service and home group pride increased! Mahalo to Mary C, Jim D, Mathea M, all GSR's and standing committee members for sharing their mana'o and being a part of the District 6 panel.
- A special mahalo to Happy Hour Group for organizing and supporting the monthly service workshops. These workshops enhanced our knowledge about many aspects of AA and how we can be 'a part of'.
- Congratulations to our new District Officers for Panel 59: Jim D - DCM; Susan O'N - Alternate DCM; Courtney P - Treasurer; Michele K -Secretary.
- We are preparing to host the Orientation Assembly, January 24-25, 2009 and look forward to showing our Kaua'i 'ohana kine welcome. Contact any district officer or assembly chairperson to help: 652-2005; Alejandro (registrar) (transportation) 652-3128; Mo L 651-9116 and Kathryn B 634-4185 (food & drinks); Darryl C (home stay) 652-9234; Shoshanah B (hospitality) 634-7236. We will host the assembly at the Lihu'e Neighborhood Center. We need a chair for the setup/clean up committee with volunteers already on the list. Contact Jim D, DCM panel 59, for more information or to volunteer.
- Area Election Assembly (11/1-2) Highlights:
- Kauai was a strong presence. We had 12 District 6 members present. 4 new GSR's/alternate GSR's from Panel 59. We had approximately 10% of the voting power and 9 of us will be continuing Area 17 service commitments in the next panel.
- Area Officers were elected using the Third Legacy. Two officers were elected on the 1st round of voting. Four officers went to "the hat." (Round 1: need a 2/3 majority. If not, go to Round 2: 2/3 majority and less than 1/5 are eliminated. If no majority, go to Round 3 - 2/3 majority, less than 1/5 eliminated. Then - round 4. After round 4, we vote to see if we want to vote again or "go to the hat" where the names are placed in a "hat" and a non-voting member draws one name. In other words, HP decides.

- ➤ Trustee at large Scott C (our own Kathryn B also stood for this position). His name will be submitted to the General Service Office for selection.
- Delegate Elizabeth M
- ➤ Alternate Delegate Linda McD
- Area Chair Ken K
- ➤ Alternate Chair Colin H
- ➤ Treasurer Coleen A
- Secretary Miranda K

Proposals:

- Funding Delegate travel defeated 60 votes to 13
- ➤ CEC Resource Material initially, draft was one vote shy of a 2/3's majority. The minority spoke and, after much discussion members changed their vote and the proposal passed: 69 votes to 13
- ➤ GSR's assigned to a standing committee (at the assemblies) was accepted 69 votes to 12

2008 Area 17 accomplishments:

- ➤ We will have a standard email address for all area officers. Starting in January, our website will be www.area17aa.org and the standard email address for all officers, standing committee chairs and DCM's will be used.
- We established a website committee.
- ➤ Have a continuous Area contributions mailing address that does not change with each panel.
- > raised our prudent reserve to \$5,000.
- > Standing Committee Chairs will be selected by all the Area officers.
- Mynah Bird may have one more edition IF we submit articles to Miranda. Deadline for submissions is December 7th
- Panel 59 2009 Assemblies & Committee Meetings:
- ➤ January 24-25, 2009: ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY Kaua`i
- February 28, 2009: COMMITTEE MEETING Leeward District (O`ahu) confirmed
- ➤ April 11-12, 2009: INFORM THE DELEGATE ASSEMBLY Honolulu District (O`ahu) confirmed
- ➤ 6/20: Committee Meeting Waikiki District (O`ahu) tentative
- ➤ 8/22-23: Budget Assembly No Ka Oi District (Maui) tentative
- ➤ 10/10: Committee Meeting (optional) Windward district (O`ahu) tentative
- November: Optional Assembly West Hawaii (Big Island)

Next District meeting will be held on December 13th at 9:30am at 3146 Akahi Street. Come help us prepare for the Assembly and be a part of the excitement.

In love and service, Shoshanah B.

District 6 Committee Panel 58, Thru 2008

DCM - Shoshanah B. 634-7236 dcm6@hawaii-aa.org

Alt-DCM - Mary C. mcasebeerkauai@hawaiiantel.net

Treasurer - Mathea A. mallansmith@cs.com

Alt-Treas. - Will R. 822-2367 grogrn@hawaiiantel.net

Secretary - Jim D. 822-0491 <u>dubuar@hawaiiantel.net</u>

Corrections – James B. (808) 822-2320 <u>linbonds@msn.com</u>

Grapevine – Alejandro 652-3128 hernandea 040 @hawaii.rr.com

Next District Meeting December 13th 9:30 am, 3146 Akahi St., Lihu'e

Kauai District Cash Flow October 11th Meeting, 2008

Beginning Balance (August 21, 2008	3) 1,148.12
INCOME	
Interest (8-21-08 thru 9-19-08)	0.05
North Shore Aloha	40.00
Princeville/Hanalei	280.00
Step Sisters	7.16
Sobriety in Paradise	72.35
Exp, Strngh, Hope	45.00
Thus Koloa 12X12	35.00
Total Income	479.56
EXPENSES	
Ck 848 Karen Stoll, Rent Q4	45.00
Ck 852Shosh.B, DCM, Nov Asm	165.00
Total Expenses	-210.00
Balance (Sept 19, 2008)	1,417.68
Prudent Reserve	- 500.00
CASH AVAILABLE	\$917.68

Submitted by Mathea A., District 6 Treasurer

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i District Committee

PO Box 1503, Kapa'a, HI 96746

Please include "District 6" & "Group Name" on the check