

Hawaii Area 17 – Panel 61
2011 January Orientation Assembly
Alternate Chair’s Report

First let me say that it is an honor to be able to serve you as your Panel 61 Alternate Chair. I look forward to learning the job as we progress through the next two years. It’s a step out of my comfort zone but isn’t learning new things and growing in ways we never expected part of what Alcoholics Anonymous is all about?

This is the third panel I have the pleasure of serving. During Panel 57 I served as the GSR for my home group, the Downtown Lunch Group in Honolulu, as well as your volunteer webmaster for Hawaii Area. During Panel 59 I was honored to serve as your Web Standing Committee Chair/Webmaster. Now, during Panel 61, I am happy to pass the website on in the Spirit of Rotation and trust that my replacement, Hugh C. will do an even better job than I ever could.

So what does the Alternate Chair do? Besides serving as a back up for our Area Chair, Cheryl N., I sit on our Area Finance Committee as well as the Steering Committee of the Annual Hawaii Convention. I will also be working directly with many of you as the Area officer tasked with assisting our districts in hosting Area Assemblies like this one and our upcoming 2011 February Committee Meeting hosted by the Waikiki District. I know that hosting these events can be a real challenge but I also know that even though most of us are new to our jobs we can draw from the wealth of experience here in the Hawaii Fellowship.

Recent Activities:

Since the end of the 2010 I have worked with our incoming webmaster to make sure that we have a smooth transition. I can’t wait to see what comes next for our website.

I was asked to attend the final 2010 district meeting of the Honolulu District where District #2 elected a new DCM, Jacque F. Though I hadn’t yet assumed my Alternate Chair duties at that time, Honolulu is my home district so it was appropriate I attend. I also attended to a few details as your webmaster that needed to be done prior to the assembly.

I was also asked to attend Waikiki District 10 meetings in order to help Alan Y., the incoming Waikiki DCM, get things in order for the upcoming February Committee meeting to be held at the Waikiki Community Center. The location has been secured, registration for DCMS, Standing Committee Chairs, and Area Officers is up and running. Fliers have been approved and are available.

Finally, I was introduced to the Hawaii Annual Convention Steering Committee at their last meeting of 2010 and participated in the first meeting of 2011. After the

first meeting the Convention Steering Committee held a thorough group inventory focusing on last year's convention and the work leading up to it.

The inventory process is an integral part of Alcoholics Anonymous both at a personal level in our own step work as well as at the group and service body level. By looking objectively at our strengths and weaknesses we have the opportunity to correct mistakes and learn to make appropriate use of our strengths.

This inventory was not simply about improving physical processes. To be sure some of that came out in the inventory and will be dealt appropriately but we went further and took an honest look at the relationship between the Area 17 and the Convention.

In all honesty it is a relationship that needs to be improved, that much is clear. But I can also honestly tell you that I don't see huge obstacles in making this relationship a wonderful and productive one. Yes, there was some contention during the last panel. In the end however, Panel 59 decided to keep this relationship alive. We will be meeting again to discuss what steps we need to take to amend what we found in the inventory and make this year's 50th Hawaii Annual Convention a true celebration.

Thank you for letting me serve,

Bob H.