

# HAWAII AREA INVENTORY – 2012

## Roundtable Summary

1. How does Area serve AA in Hawaii?
  - Area is link between groups and districts and GSO.
  - Facilitating the message.
  - Creating unity.
  - No one knows what Area does.
  - Through our standing committees.

How can we better carry the message to still suffering alcoholics throughout the Area?

- Delegate, Area officers and SC chairs could be more visible at the group level.
- Well informed GSRs needed.
- Encourage all levels of service.
- Delegate is well informed but could do better in getting to home group member. Two direction communication.
- Support Intergroups. (Kauai needs Intergroup.)
- More effective standing committees.
- Educate our members not in general service.
- Making sure lines of communication are always open.

2. How effective are the standing committees? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 with '1' being not effective to '5' being very effective.
  - Average ratings 4, 3, 3, 3.5, 3 out of 5.
  - Some committees are very effective, others not effective.
  - Committee work struggles at District level.

How can they improve?

- SC chairs -Communicate, acknowledge emails.
- Members – committee members need to be more involved by setting goals and achieving them with the help of the chairs.
- Have committee chairs give 'blurbs' of updates in past month to fill Mynah Birds.
- Attach workshops to committee meetings and make them open to all AAs.
- Lack of involvement of SC chairs when they don't show up for Assemblies. Continuity is lost and members of committee lose enthusiasm.
- Increase personal committee commitments.
- Standing committee chairs can "package" service work that can be carried out.
- Let GSRs choose their SC.

3. Do you feel the Area utilizes an informed group conscience in its decision making?
  - Average rating 4, 4, 5, 4.5 out of 5

- When we do our job, the information is available.

How could we improve communication?

- Get information to groups in timely fashion so they can become truly informed.
- Utilize Area website and keep all information current.
- Get "Inform the Delegate" information earlier.
- GSRs, DCMs bring info to groups without GSRs to spark their interest, stress that their voice is important and follow up with those groups afterward.
- Post outcomes on the website.
- Send emails to GSRs.
- GSRs need to be informed = GET ENTHUSIASTIC!!!
- "There's us and them" – let's talk about concepts.

4. What is the role of the minority opinion at the Area?

- Make sure all sides are heard to avoid rash decisions.

Is the minority opinion heard?

- Yes – sometimes over and over – but that's a good thing!
- We're doing it and it works. That's what makes AA a beautiful thing.

5. Are we informed and adhering to the Traditions and Concepts?

- Yes, but would like more discussion of them when we make a decision.
- Could improve awareness/understanding of concepts.
- Workshops, include concepts, as part of readings at assemblies.
- How do you know you're adhering if you don't know the Concepts?
- It is important that AREA be responsible for educating us as to Concepts.

6. Does Area meet too much? Not enough? OK the way it is?

- OK way it is.

Are the costs associated with our Assemblies and Committee Meetings financially prudent?

- Airfare is always a heavy burden especially traveling between 'Neighbor' islands.
- Yes.

If not, what can be done to decrease the costs of Area meetings?

- Hold committee meetings only on Oahu.
- Internet meetings for committee meetings. Assemblies are better in person – fosters unity. It's the sharing that happens at breaks that fosters enthusiasm.
- Travel to outer island limits the number of people at meeting. Use skype and meet in a central location.
- Pass the basket again at home group to raise funds for GSR travel.

- Suggest different split of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to groups since travel is so much more expensive in Hawaii.
- Groups can plan ahead and put a little money aside every month when they see they will have off island assemblies coming up.
- Everyone can buy tickets early.
- Use "Hawaiian Miles for Area" option so some of flights can be purchased with airline miles.

7. What is the purpose of our Area archives? Are they fulfilling our purpose?

- Average ratings 5, 3, 4, 2, 3 out of 5.
- Maintain history of AA in Hawaii.
- Can reference why certain motions are in place.
- Not fulfilling purpose but trying. Most members have never seen any archives.

What ideas do you have for improvements? How can you help?

- Need to be displayed not just stored.
- Needs to be digitally stored so all may have access.
- If you want to save money, step up to the plate and volunteer your time.
- Once a box has been digitized, DCMs could take turns bringing it to their districts to display.
- Keep only items pertinent to Area, not District, home group or Intergroups. They should keep their own.
- Digitize and auction off originals.
- House at Intergroup.
- We need a clear vision of exactly what we are trying to do. Are we just safe keeping or are we making these archives easily accessible for educational purposes.

8. What is the purpose of the website?

- Disseminate information to groups and members. Also a means of contact between members.
- DCMs should demonstrate to members how to navigate the links on the website.
- Restructure home page to make it easier to access committees.
- Consider opening up comments.

Is it meeting our needs?

- Average ratings – 3, 5, 4, 4, 5 out of 5
- Yes, calendar is good but needs to be updated in a timely way.
- Refer more home group members to it.
- Help finding PRAASA and links.
- Not user friendly.
- Add an AA chat room/anonymous response, spiritual vs. religion, younger generation.
- Website new tech, not alpha omega.

9. Mynah Bird – Do you view it as a valuable communication tool for Area 17?

- Yes, valuable.
- Yes, love it. Especially people on Oahu.
- Not popular on Maui or Kauai – they have their own publications.

Do you read it?

- Yes, read it.
- Half of group reads it, other half doesn't.

Do you take a copy to your home group?

- Yes I take a copy but how do I get them to read it?
- Half bring to home group, half don't.

Suggestions for improvement. How can you help?

- I can help by writing articles and encouraging others to do same.
- Make announcements at meetings, talking about it during our "share" and using it for a topic discussion.
- District needs to make copies and hand out.
- Miss the word search.
- Talk to DCMs about distribution.
- Responsibility of GSRs and DCMs to introduce to members, generate interest and enthusiasm.

10. What topics would you like to see Area discuss?

- How to increase 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions.
- Workshops on Standing Committees.
- Workshops to inform not just GSRs but everyone about what Area is.
- Joys and mana of doing service work.
- Anonymity and technology.
- Better support Intergroups.
- How to get stuff on Agenda.
- DCM checklist.
- Hold Standing Committees accountable.

11. Do you have additional comments, suggestions, etc? What would you like Area to do in 2012?

- Encourage GSRs to take charge of their positions and to become as informed as they can.
- Test runs on Skype.
- Word search for Mynah Bird.
- At next assembly, go over Concepts and Traditions.
- Smaller groups for GSRs.
- Focus on unity.
- Respect and listening at assemblies.
- More efficient use of technology.
- Opportunity to get to know officers better. Officers could mentor GSRs.