



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

Hawaii Area 17 Committee Meeting
Saturday, October 13, 2012
Hosted by Waianae, District 17

2012 Pacific Regional Forum

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
September 14, 15 and 16, 2012



PURPOSE OF THIS FORUM

This Forum is put on by the A.A. General Service Board and is "open" to A.A. membership or to anyone interested in A.A. Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chairman of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris.

Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office Staff and the A.A. Grapevine. Forums offer a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic.

This Forum provides unique opportunities for A.A. members throughout the Pacific Region to share their experience, strength and hope.

We Are Coming Together to Share Experience On Several Topics:

- * Why should I care about A.A. beyond my home group?
- * A.A. History-Boring or incredible spiritual journey?
- * How does support of G.S.O. help A.A.'s worldwide?
- * Does your home group use the A.A. Grapevine or La Vina as a Twelfth Step tool?
- * The upside down triangle- How are the General Service Board, the A.A.W.S. and Grapevine Boards accountable to the fellowship?
- * How do I have a voice in A.A.?
- * What do the Traditions and Concepts have to do with my home group?

PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM

Aloha Area 17,

I am on my way home from the Pacific Regional Forum in Fairbanks. I want to thank you for your support. My full report will follow in a few days, but I wanted to share with you so you might begin thinking about it and perhaps give your GSR and DCM some feedback that they can bring with them to the October Committee Meeting.

Regional forums provide an opportunity for direct communication with some members of the General Service Board, AA World Services, AA Grapevine Corporate Board, GSO and Grapevine Staff. In a sense, Regional Forums bring a little bit of New York and the General Service Office and board to AA members who might otherwise not be able to have direct contact. There were 194 attendees at the forum this year in Fairbanks with 107 of them being first time forum attendees. AA members from Niniltna, Homer, North Pole, Pilot Station and many remote areas were able to attend because it was in Fairbanks.

I sat there and watched and felt their gratitude for that opportunity and hoped that we could bring a Regional Forum to Hawaii—making GSO within reach of many AA Members in Hawaii. So, my question is -

*Are you interested in having a Regional Forum in Hawaii?

Looking forward to your feedback.

Cheryl N.

Chair, Area 17, Panel 61



SOBER WOMEN ARE NEEDED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO WOMEN ALCOHOLICS IN INDIA. The GSO of Australia has put together a trip, hoping for at least 100 sober AA women to join them in January to carry the message. With over a billion people, there are only 13 women in AA in India. Due to cultural sensitivities, only women can carry the message to women in India. Meanwhile, women alcoholics are dying. If you are a woman and would like more information on how you could take part in this adventure, email Valerie at the Australia National Office Valerie@aa.org.au. (India is a part of the Asia/Oceania Region of AA, along with Australia and Japan.



GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NY 10115 (212) 870-3400

Alcoholics Anonymous World Council

Alcoholics Anonymous World Council

GRAND CENTRAL STATION
PO BOX 199
NEW YORK, NY 10167
PHONE 212 870 3400

SHARING REQUESTED

Date: August 2, 2012

To: Delegates & Area Public Information (P.I.) Committee Chairs

From: Mary Cumings, secretary, Trustees' Public Information Committee

Re: Request for Area sharing

Request for Fellowship Sharing: In response to the 2012 Conference Committee on Public Information Additional Committee Consideration (below), the trustees' Public Information Committee has requested sharing from the Areas "regarding the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today."

Additional Committee Consideration:

- Following lengthy and thoughtful discussion related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven, the committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately in the Long Form of Tradition Eleven. Recognizing that suggested changes to Tradition Eleven have come to the Conference several times, the committee requested the trustees' Public Information Committee gather Area sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today and report back to the 2013 Conference Committee on Public Information.

Please send sharing regarding "the effectiveness of the language of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today" via e-mail to publicinfo@aa.org or by postal mail to P.I. Desk, General Service Office, 475 Riverside Dr., 11th floor, New York, NY 10115. The committee has asked to receive this sharing no later than December 31, 2012. Thank you for your service!

Announcement

Date: August 22, 2012

To: Members of the General Service Conference

From: Doug Richardson, Director of Staff Services

Dear Friends,

Applications are now being sought for a G.S.O. staff member. G.S.O. staff are members of Alcoholics Anonymous who rotate through the various assignments such as Corrections, Public Information, Treatment Facilities/Special Needs-Accessibilities, Literature, Conference Coordinator, etc. They also correspond with A.A.s on all aspects of recovery, unity and service. Additionally, they represent the General Service Office at A.A. functions throughout the U.S. and Canada and provide the primary staff support for the General Service Board and the annual General Service Conference.

Desirable qualifications include excellent communication and organizational skills, good computer skills, as well as the ability to work independently and as a team member. A.A. service experience will also be taken into consideration in addition to a willingness to relocate to New York City, if necessary. A minimum of six years sobriety is required.

For additional information regarding the General Service Office staff member position, please see the February/March 2005 *Box 4-5-9* article, "G.S.O. Staff Member – A Job Like No Other," available on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web Site at www.aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/en_box459_febmar05.pdf.

We will welcome applications up to *October 31, 2012*. We hope you will share the "AAWS Staff Application for Employment" with members who are interested in serving on our staff and meet the basic requirements outlined above.

Please do not e-mail applications. Interested members may apply via postal mail or fax.

Mail: General Service Office
 475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor
 New York, NY 10115

FAX: (212) 870-3003

Interested members may address any questions regarding the nature of the job to Rick Walker, Staff Coordinator at (212) 870-3124. Questions regarding benefits and related matters should be directed to Olga Mesonjnik, our Human Resources Director at (212) 870-3025.

Your friends here join me in sending love and gratitude to you, along with our warmest good wishes.

Re: *Box 4-5-9* – Please Copy & Circulate and/or Post

To: All General Service Conference Members
From: Gayle Solheim Riese, Literature Desk, G.S.O.
Date: October 4, 2012
Re: **Looking for 'hot topics' for a district or group meeting? Turn to quarterly issue of *Box 4-5-9*.**

Often at the General Service Office when there is shared experience about a particular topic that may benefit groups and/or trusted servants in A.A., a chorus of voices can be heard to say "how about an article in *Box 4-5-9*?" However, putting that information in the pages of *Box 4-5-9* won't be useful unless it is read!

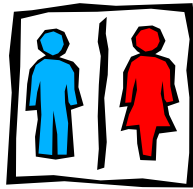
To that end we hope that you will share with the DCMs and other trusted servants in your area the following key points:

- An issue of *Box 4-5-9* is sent quarterly to each G.S.R. or other group contact for A.A. groups in the United States and Canada. This issue is meant to be shared with the group, possibly pointing out articles of particular interest regarding group issues that are brought to the attention of G.S.O. through phone calls, e-mails and other correspondence.
- The articles of interest to group life may be used as topics for discussion in A.A. meetings.
 - A few topics covered in recent issues include: How do you introduce yourself in A.A.? (Spring 2012); What can be done about a disruptive member? (Fall 2010); New and revised literature for group racks (Fall 2012 and many other issues); What is Conference-Approved Literature? (April/May 2008); How do we handle anonymity at the group level? (Fall 2012); a three-part series about A.A. group life (beginning with Fall 2012).
- The Winter 2012 issue will cover Gratitude Month in A.A., along with a myriad of other ways that the topic of self-support in A.A. can be addressed.

Also, you may want to note that there is an archive of *Box 4-5-9* newsletters on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site going back to the year 1990, with new decades being added as they are scanned. A.A. members can also digitally subscribe to *Box 4-5-9* on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 2011 Membership survey

GENDER OF MEMBERS



65% 35%

AGE OF MEMBERS

Under age of 21	2%
Age 21- 30	11%
Age 31- 40	15%
Age 41- 50	24%
Age 51- 60	27%
Age 61- 70	15%
Over 70	6%

COMPOSITION OF MEMBERSHIP

White	81%
Hispanic	5%
Black	4%
Native American	2%
Asian	1%
Other	1%



AVERAGE MEETINGS ATTENDED

2.5 PER WEEK

MARITAL STATUS

Married	Single	Divorced	Other
36%	34%	22%	8%

SPONSORSHIP

**81% of membership have one.....
72% got one within 90 days**

LENGTH OF SOBRIETY

Less than one year	27%
2-5 years	24%
6-10 years	12%
11 plus years	36%



PACIFIC REGIONAL FORUM

Our Area 17 Chair, Cheryl N., has made an inquiry as to how Area 17 could submit a request to host a Pacific Regional Forum.

YEAR END REPORTS

End of the year reports from DCM's, GSR's, Officers, and Standing Committee Chairs are due October 19, 2012 for publication in the Final Report.

ELECTIONS ASSEMBLY

Elections for Hawaii Area 17 officers will be held in Kailua-Kona November 17 and 18, 2012

Announcements



COMING EVENTS 2012...

October 13 **Committee Meeting**

October 26-28 **4th Annual Kauai Men's RETREAT**

www.kauaiaa.org

November 1-4 **51st Annual State Convention Honolulu 'Freedom From Bondage'**

www.hawaiiconvention.com

November 6 **Maui Mini-Conference**
Christian Fellowship Church,
Kahana

November 17-18 **Election Assembly**
West Hawaii
KONA



November 21-22 **Thanksgiving Alcahthon**
Cameron Center
Dinner 1pm on Nov 22



November 22 **THANKATHON**
"Stone Church", Lihue
Kauai 9:00 am-3:00 pm



To The Gates Of Insanity Or... ... The 4th Annual Mens Retreat



Kahili Mountain Park October 26 - 28th

All Men in sobriety are invited to attend. Make your reservations early. Sleeping is limited to 30.

Costs: \$110 for full registration, includes: 5 personally prepared meals by our head & souschefs, 2 night stay in a comfortable semi-private suite, and a 1/2 round of "Championship" golf, \$85 for non golfers, \$25 for dinners, \$10 for lunch or breakfast. Let us know if you need golf clubs. To reserve call the AA Hotline 245-6677 and ask for Chris K's contact information.

THAANKATHON



At The 'Stone Church' In Lihue November 22th, 2012

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Meetings: 10:00am and 2:00pm

Activities: Potluck and Live Entertainment

Please Bring:

North Shore -- Salads, Vegetables

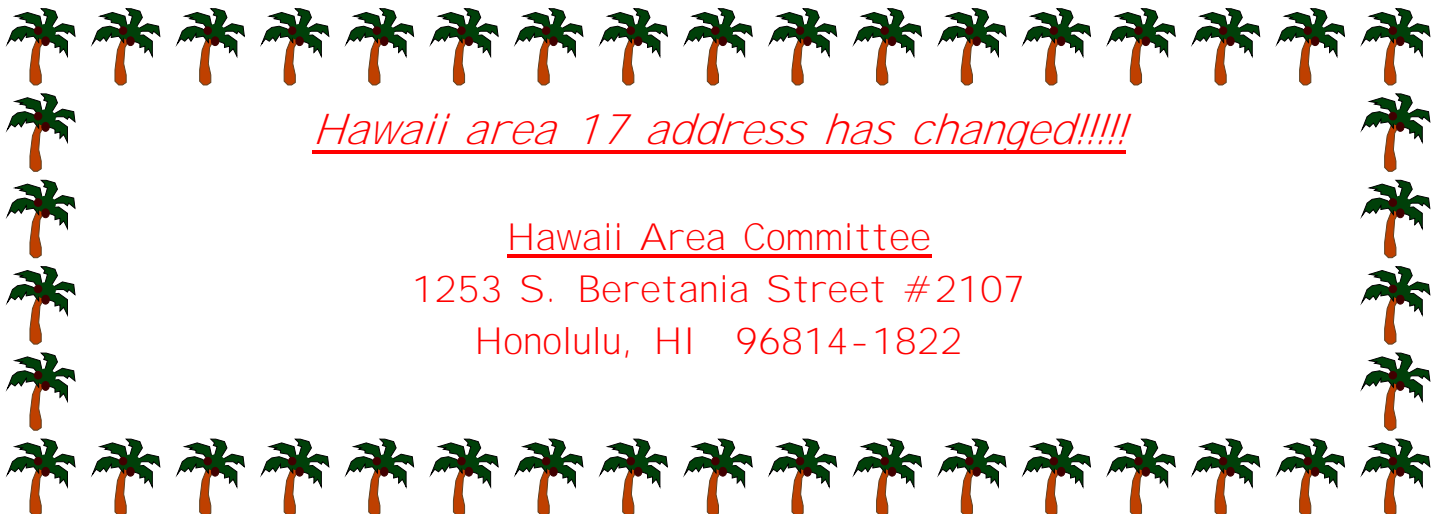
South Shore -- Mashed Potatoes, Yams

West Side -- Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce

East Side -- Desserts

We Encourage You To Focus On The "Go --Withs"!

Volunteer service via the AA Hotline **245-6677**



Hawaii area 17 address has changed!!!!

Hawaii Area Committee

1253 S. Beretania Street #2107

Honolulu, HI 96814-1822

Hawaii Area 17 address has changed!!!

Hawaii Mail Box Service, where the area post office box is located, has chosen to move after 30 years at the same location. The high cost of rent at the old address forced them to choose a more affordable location. As a result, the area address will be changed. The date of this change is July 23, 2012. The new address for area contributions is listed below:

**Hawaii Area Committee
1253 S. Beretania Street #2107
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822**

The mail will be forwarded for twelve months, but it is important to notify everyone concerned as soon as possible. Please let all your group treasurers know of this change and Help us to get the word out to all of the Hawaii fellowship. Contributions made after July 23, 2012 should use this new address. Thank you all for your service in announcing this important change.

* * * * *

ARCHIVES REPORT

Interior Alaska September 2012

MOMENTS-IN-HISTORY FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept-1830: Dr. Samuel Woodward calls for creation of inebriate asylums for alcoholics across America.

Sept-1844: "Lodging Homes for the Fallen" are opened in Boston, marking the roots of getting alcoholics our-of-sight, out-of-mind and away from public view.

Sept-1894: Bill W's parents will marry at the Congregational Church in East Dorset Vermont.

Sept-1896: Dr. Silkworth meets and falls in love with Marie Antonette Bennett. Dr. Silkworth's nick-name for her was "Annette".

Sept-1910: Book "As a Man Thinketh" by James Allen published. One of eleven books (including the bible) that will influence how our Big Book will be written.

Sept-1914: At this time Bill W. and Lois B. meet and fall in Love. Lois was highly educated. Graduate of Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn plus several years of art school in New York.

Sept-1931: Bill W. wrote his last promise to quit drinking in the family bible. He was a complete failure.

Sept-1938: Arch Throwbridge sobriety date. He sobered up under Dr. Bob. His story in our big book is one of the few stories that has survived all four editions of our book.

Sept-1948: John McDonnell opened "Pioneer House" in Minnesota. One of the first alcohol treatment centers in the mid-west.

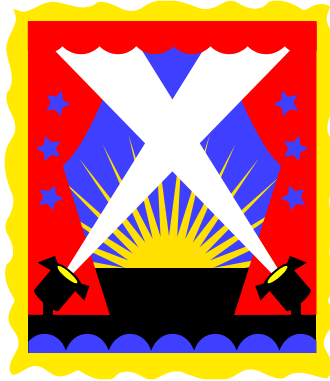
Sept-1950: The National Institute of Mental Health in Washington D.C. establishes a special division on alcoholism

Sept-1954: Bill D. passed away. (A.A. #3) He was a pioneer member of the first A.A. group in the world, Akron's Group Number 1.

Sept-1974: Jim B. Passed away. Jim is buried near Fitz M. They are both A.A. Pioneers and both their stories are in the big book.

Sept-1977: The General Conference has issued an advisory action to all delegates that they establish area grapevine committees to achieve a grapevine representative in every group.

Coming



Soon!

***You are invited!
November 17-18th, 2012
Kailua Kona, HI***

HAWAII AREA 17 ELECTIONS!

Area Officers to be Elected:

***DELEGATE
ALTERNATE DELEGATE
AREA CHAIR
ALTERNATE AREA CHAIR
TREASURER
RECORDING SECRETARY
AREA REGISTRAR***

PUT YOUR NAME IN THE HAT FOR AREA 17 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Archives Committee Chair
Convention Steering Chair
Cooperation with the Elder Community Chair
Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair
Corrections Chair
Finance Chair
Grapevine Chair
Hospitals Chair
Mynah Bird Chair
Public Information Chair
Treatment Facilities Chair
Website Chair**

51st Annual Hawaii Convention

November 1-4, 2012



..freedom from bondage

To Be Held At

**The Hilton Hawaiian Village
Waikiki Beach Resort**

<http://annualhawaiiconvention.com/>

2013 AREA ASSEMBLIES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Orientation Assembly - January - District 4, Windward, Oahu

Committee Meeting - February - District 11, Kehei, Maui

Inform the Delegate - April - District 5, "No Ka Oi", Maui

Committee Meeting - May/June - District 10 - Waikiki, Oahu

Budget Assembly - August - District 2 - Honolulu, Oahu

Optional Committee Meeting - District 6 - Kauai

Optional Assembly - November - District 3 - Leeward, Oahu



SAFETY IN A.A.: OUR COMMON WELFARE



There has been much discussion regarding the 2012 General Service Conference topic, Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare. This is an important discussion to keep having. I suggest you use part, if not all of the subjects, as meeting topics. Please keep talking about this in your home group meetings. The following are some of the results from the 62nd GSC:

How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?

SMILE.

Have both men and women greeters if mixed meeting.

Have the meeting space set up early

Be ready to escort handicapped if necessary.

Help newcomers find the coffee.

Be sure the secretary reads housekeeping items and guidelines for the meeting (e.g. cell phones away, no smoking, crosstalk, etc.)

Personally invite the newcomer back.

Be sensitive to closing the meeting with a religious prayer.

Don't leave any cleanup people alone to do the chores.

SMILE.

How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. meetings safe?

Discourage profanity.

Discourage sharing re sexuality.

Educate as to pray vs. prey.

Offer guidance in life skills.

Be an example of appropriate conduct.

Be aware that predators exist and speak up if see inappropriate behavior.

In keeping with the Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:

Conduct that disrupts the meeting

Be sure the secretary reads housekeeping items and guidelines for the meeting (e.g. cell phones away, no smoking, crosstalk, etc.).

Speak quietly with the person; if one-on-one is not effective, ask the person to leave the meeting (but not AA).



SAFETY IN A.A.: OUR COMMON WELFARE

In group conscience, define disruptive behavior and develop a plan (snoring, texting, kids running around, pets running around).

Illegal activity

Any illegal activity that jeopardizes the health and well being of others needs to be reported.

Call police.

Take action, don't withdraw.

Inappropriate behaviors towards vulnerable newcomers (e.g. "13 Stepping")

Be aware/mindful.

Sponsors can alert newcomers to potentially harmful situations.

Encourage newcomers that we need to change behavior in sobriety (i.e. appropriate dress and language).

Inappropriate behavior includes more than sexual predation; be mindful of monetary predation and so-called personal behaviors; watch for drug dealers.

Emergencies (injury/accident/fire)

Have procedures in place.

Call 911.

Finally, here are two thoughts:

Inaction = condonation

Remember: what's good for the group comes first, but personal welfare follows close behind.



A.A. RX

**Antidote for undependability:
Principals only mean something if you
Stick by them when they're inconvenient!**

Heard in a Meeting...

"This is a simple program for complicated people."

"Grow or die."

"I wasn't driven to AA; I was dropped off."

**"Just because we give up alcohol,
We don't give up alcoholism."**

**"If you're a newcomer, and you don't think you're
an alcoholic, keep coming back and you will catch it."**



**"One hand in sponsor's hand, one
hand in sponsee's hand, and I have no hand to
hold a drink."**

**"You drank over your feelings and your
thinking got you here."**

"Look at your past, but don't stare at it."

**"Talking is wonderful, but an experience
is more powerful than a belief."**

"Happiness is in the heart, not the circumstances."