

Hawaii Area 17 Orientation Assembly  
Saturday, January 15, 2011  
Hosted by Honolulu District  
Saturday

Call to Order at 9:06 am

Serenity Prayer

Host DCM announcements

Registrar - Everyone please fill out Group Registration forms.

Reading - Maggie: Readings on the importance of Unity of AA.

Chair - Welcome, schedule flights early to get best rate.

Introductions of Area Officers

- Chair - Cheryl N.
- Delegate - Linda McD
- Alt Delegate - Ken K
- Alt. Chair - Bob H.
- Treasurer - Sheri B.
- Secretary - Coleen A.
- Registrar - Adina M.
- Welcome to our Past Delegates - Elizabeth, Scott, Vernon, Keith, Dick,
- Welcome Pacific Region Trustee - Rod

Introduction/Confirmation of Standing Committee Chairs

- Cooperation with Elder Community (CEC)- Rochelle
- Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC) - Susan O'N
- Grapevine - Libette
- Hospitals - Jim
- Mynah Bird -Kathy S.
- Public Information (PI) - Chris S
- Treatment - Chris N
- Webmaster - Hugh

Introduction Committee Chairs - confirmation not needed

- Convention - Kunane

General Service Structure - Rod B., Pacific Regional Trustee

If you have question - ask somebody.

Reviewed service structure up side down triangle, and map of the regions.

Panels -Panel 61: the number of times/years the General Service Conference has met.

Area and District work is a responsibility and a joy. Take care of tradition, be an example of service, help others. It's like all the service work you do. The things we keep are the things we give away. All service is important.

5<sup>th</sup> tradition - our primary purpose.

1<sup>st</sup> tradition - our common welfare of the utmost importance to assure this fellowship continues.

Stepping Stones - Bill and Lois's home. You can feel AA history there.

Wits End - Where Bill W. wrote our early literature, Big Book.

Dedicate our lives to the service of those not yet free of the bondage of alcohol.

Areas feel frustration of the difficulty/lack of participate of groups. When the alcoholics understand, they understand are able to participate. Our challenge is to help them understand this. Encouraged us to have all three legacies in our lives: recovery, unity, and service.

The up side down triangle- the further down the triangle you go, the more people who can boss you around.

AAWS and GV are the two corporation AA owns, Trustees are the custodians of these corporations.

It takes time to understand how all the pieces fit together. Ask questions.

The General Service Conference decides things that affect AA as a whole. It is how we can change things in AA. Our ultimate authority is a loving God who expresses himself in our group conscience.

93 areas, 93 delegates. Half are elected on odd years, half on even year.

Conference agenda items submitted.

Literature currently being drafted - Armed Forces, Special Needs, Spirituality.

AA needs to be respectful of others ways -

Grapevine -needs 105,000 - 110,000 subscriptions to keep GV in the black. The fellowship does want the GV published.

PRAASA - will be in Hawaii this year.

The reason I participate in general service is to pay back the debt I owe AA. The only problem is, the longer I stay in this thing, the bigger the debt gets.

Q: Kevin -Literature. AA is a publishing company. GV subscriptions have dwindled. Finding new ways to reach out to the alcoholic. How can more of AA be on the internet? A: E technology, carrying the message with all these ways. Subcommittee looking at it and presenting to the fellowship. Hope it will become easier to deal with. Tell your delegate your feeling about the agenda items - Inform the Delegate - the conscience of our area on these agenda items. We take that information and share it with our group and district. Get some idea from your group, their thought on E technology. Anonymity is one concern. Bring your group's thoughts to the Inform the Delegate Assembly. It's tedious, but we all have a chance to say something.

Q: Rod - New pamphlet on spirituality - what will be in it? Decision not made whether it will be a pamphlet or a booklet. It depends on number of stories submitted. Agnostic/atheist would like it to say that and agnostic/atheist can stay sober in AA. The Literature Committee is sifting through the background information. The spirit of the general fellowship, a loving, kind response to concerns. Inclusive. Something to make AA stronger. We all feel strongly about how we got /stay sober.

Linda : the agenda item came from Area 17.

Introductions of all the trusted servants present today, and birthdays.

Break at 10:35 am

### AA Literature - Scott C

Service Manuel, Hawaii Structures & Guidelines, GSR Handbook

Can download from the area website. [area17aa.org](http://area17aa.org)

GSR Handbook - 20 pages of info. Page 17 suggestions.

S&G Everything in there was passed through group conscience. Help you be a better GSR, DCM, etc. We are relying on you.

### Web Intro - Webmaster, Hugh

Our website address is [area17aa.org](http://area17aa.org)

Send Area 17 events that you want posted to [webmaster@area17aa.org](mailto:webmaster@area17aa.org)

If you haven't already done so, download group information forms and give to Adina, Area 17 Registrar- Adinah

Talked about what is included on the website.

See Website Guidelines - what we post/do not post.

Q. Going to a district page, are district event posted there? - A. Area does not post district events, that would be posted on the Intergroup website. Area website is for area service events for Hawaii Area 17. We give you the information you need to do your job. If you do not have a computer, ask for paper copies of what you need. If you can access this, please use it.

### Orientation Workshops

- DCM - Cheryl N./Linda McD.
- GSR - Past Delegates and Ken K. facilitating groups
- Standing Committees - Area Officers
- 

### Lunch at 12:15PM

### AA in Hawaii- Dick M

In the beginning, there was the bottle and the alcoholic. Over the years, there were numerous attempts to separate the two. Some of those efforts grew out of the Temperance movements of the 1800's. Movements that at first, preached moderation in drinking but later focus shifted to the complete abstinence of alcohol. One of these groups was the Washingtonians, which grew in leaps and bounds, and featured temperance pledges, parades and hospitals. It grew to such proportions that they forgot what their original intentions were. A movement first started "by alcoholics, for alcoholics", eventually became open to everyone and was watered-down so much that it eventually disappeared. In other words, they lost their "Singleness of Purpose".

Several other movements for alcoholics developed and some of their features were later incorporated into AA. One of these, Peabodyism, was started by a Boston

therapist who had his office close to the Church of the Rev. Samuel Shoemaker who later figured in Bill's recovery and the development of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Oxford Group began in 1908 and held "House Parties," where members, "surrendered", on their knees, and gave testimony, (or shared), of their deliverance from the "sin" of alcoholism, smoking, and others, to numerous to be named. Today we share our experience, strength and hope with each other at AA meetings, although the only time I have seen anyone on their knees was when they came to the meeting drunk and fell off their chair.

The Federal Government got into the picture during " Prohibition," a period of time from 1920 to 1933, during which, through the passage of the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment to the constitution, the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors was outlawed. Drinking booze, if you could get it was OK. It was a time characterized by speakeasies, glamour, and gangsters. A time when, even the average, citizen broke the law. And so, "Not drinking" by an act of congress, failed.

Bill Wilson came on the scene in 1933, when he was admitted to Towns Hospital in New York City,, and declared a "hopeless alcoholic". Bill was visited in the hospital by Ebby T an old drinking buddy of Bill's who had "gotten religion" through the previously mentioned Oxford Group. After being discharged from Towns Hospital for the last time, Bill began attending meetings of the Oxford Group and began working with other alcoholics in an attempt to keep himself sober.

In 1935, Bill met Dr. Bob and related his drinking and sobering up experience. On June 10<sup>th</sup> 1935, Dr. Bob has his last drink, and Alcoholics Anonymous was born.

By 1939, membership in AA had reach 100, the Big Book was published and the Twelve Steps had been written. The Alcoholic Foundation, *later to become the General Service Office*, now located in New York City had been established.

By the end 1940, membership in AA had jumped to two thousand and has continued upward ever since. As AA Groups increased in number throughout the US and Canada, they looked for guidance to the AA Office in New York City, which itself grew in size and took on more responsibility. Bill and Bob and a few of the original 100 members served as the commutations link between the groups in the field, and the General Service Office in New York City.

How about AA in the state of Hawaii?

Well, In October 1943, the New York City General Service Office, received a letter, from Euell G. who had recently been released from a hospital in the, then, Territory

of Hawaii. Euell stated that he had been an alcoholic for ten years, had found the New York AA address at the local library, had talked it over with several other alcoholic patients as well as Doctors and Nurses and had decided that Hawaii had the material to form a branch of the AA organization, in Honolulu. The New York office responded with a short letter and a pamphlet. This is the first known stirrings of Alcoholics Anonymous in Hawaii. On December 14, 1943 the first known meeting of Alcoholics was held in Hawaii with Euell and four other members attending.

In 1949 we see the first AA group on a Neighbor Island, the South Sea Group in Hilo, started by Evelyn S.

As AA was getting off the ground in Hawaii, it was also moving forward on the mainland. Throughout its early years, the New York General Service office was constantly haunted by one great threat to its future existence. Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob and the New York board of trustees had the entire responsibility for the conduct of AA services.

Discussions were held in New York over the years, centering on the desirability of establishing some sort of, "conference", or board made up of AA members, to advise New York and act as a link between individual groups throughout the country and the New York Trustees. However objections to such a plan persisted, and nothing had happened for several years. Then Dr. Bob fell mortally ill and the Trustees authorized the establishment of a plan by which AA members throughout the US and Canada could replace the founders, act as a link between the groups and New York and assume full and permanent responsibility for the conduct of AA's most vital affairs. Thus, the AA General Service Conference was born.

The US and Canada were divided into Regions and the Regions into Areas. Area Delegates were elected to attend the first (1951) General Service Conference in New York. Many areas began taken on the functions that had been previously performed by their respective Intergroups. Some, but not all. Will come back to this subject shortly, But first, lets return to Hawaii and see what was happening here.

In 1953 the GSO directory lists four Hawaii meetings: The Windward Oahu group in Kailua, The Kaimuki group, the Kapiolani group and the, Central group, which was to become the hub for AA over the following years

In 1956 the GSO directory listed seven meetings statewide with 156 members attending.

In 1961, as the result of a dispute, several members of the Central Group, which had by then moved from Honolulu to Sand Island, left the Sand Island meeting and met at

Kelly's Restaurant on Nimitz Highway and Puuloa Road. The group consisted of Butch C., Ben S., Fran R., Corrine L., Arnold N., Chuck H., Cathy C., Bernice and Art B., among others. Their names are worth mentioning because the current Oahu Intergroup, initially known as the AA General Service Committee of Hawaii evolved from this group, the Central Group. Butch K. was the first Intergroup Chairman.

Fran R. started a telephone answering service, and an office was established in the now demolished First Methodist Church in Honolulu. This was the beginning of the Oahu Central Office.

The Intergroup begins selecting Delegates and sending them to the General Service Conference in New York City. Ben S. one of those original Central Group members and our second delegate, hearing at the General Service Conference, how some states have area committees, suggests Hawaii do the same, but is over ruled. AA members believe they have a firm grip on the AA service structure but they feel that, "what they call Intergroup", is enough. Intergroup establishes several committees to conduct the affairs of AA. For the next 14 years every delegate tries to establish a separate area committee, only to be shot down.

Groups continue to increase in number throughout Hawaii.

1962 the first Hawaii AA Convention, is held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, with Arnold N. and Hap T. as Co-Chairmen. Arnold was an original member of the Central Group. Hap, may have been. The Intergroup Institutional Committee got the prison inmates to print the programs. Chapter Five "How it Works" was translated into Hawaiian for the Convention. The only word they couldn't find a direct translation for was "alcohol".

In 1963 there were 28 known groups and 316 members.

By 1966 the Mynah Bird, Hawaii's AA newsletter had been established and the March addition mentions the Intergroup round-ups, held bi-annually on the North Shore.

In 1969 Fran R. and Bill O. formed a committee to put AA into hospitals. They acquired a building near the State Hospital in Kaneohe. The name of the building was Hina Mauka and that later became a treatment center. Fran was a member of the original Central Group. Bill might have been.

In 1975, Harry L., Hawaii's seventh, delegate elected by Intergroup, returned from the General Service Conference in New York, and like his predecessors lobbied for the establishment of an Area Committee. This time the delegate's efforts were

successful and on December 7, 1975 the first meeting of the Hawaii Area Committee was held.

During the following years, the Hawaii Area and Intergroup evolved as truly separate entities with defined responsibilities. The Hawaii Convention became an annual greatly anticipated event that remains loosely connected to the Hawaii Area Committee and Intergroups were established on neighbor Island.

What is worth noting is the fact that we didn't start out as independent competing entities made up of different groups of AA members looking for things to do. We started out as a small cohesive group of AA members trying to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. When they saw a need, they filled it, in the best way they knew how. The structure, and the name came later. The road was some times bumpy and not without controversy, but they succeeded.

I have been to or heard of other areas of the country where the establishment of separate Intergroups, Conventions, Areas and Districts etc. came at great cost, and there exists today a divide and much animosity between AA members in different service positions.

However, I have heard talk about which part of our service structure is the most important. Let me relate to you my own experience and hopefully, growth in this area.

When I first got sober, I got into service as the coffee maker at a meeting, I thought I had the most important position in AA. Not long after I became that group's secretary and realized I had been mistaken and now filled the most important position. A few years later I became the Area Treasure and saw that the Area and its new treasure surely contributed more than any other service entity to AA. When I became the area delegate, I agreed that while the area remained the most important, the delegate, since he or she got to go to New York must be the most important. That year when I was asked to say a few words (as the delegate) at the convention, it occurred to me that the convention with its visibility reigned supreme. Several years later I became the Chairmen of the Intergroup and that position rose to the top of the heap (in my mind). Now I am fortunate enough to be the Oahu Central Office Manager and there is no doubt in my mind that I am now at the pinnacle.

The point is, I have and am very fortunate, to have first, gotten sober through AA and then to have been able to look at the AA service structure from so many different viewpoints. We all have different talents and abilities. We all have our own ways of staying sober, working the program and expressing our gratitude. We all

our equally important in our own way and my importance doesn't diminish or take away from your importance and yours does not take away from the importance of the person sitting next to you at this area function or the person sitting in the Intergroup function or the person helping to plan the next convention.

It's as if we were all part of a boat; some of us are the planks that make up the hull of the boat; some of us are the oars that move the boat through the water, some of us make up the sail that helps when the wind is up; and some of us from time to time act as the rudder that tries to steer the boat through the water. Some of us are like me, the hot air that some times tries to blow the boat into the wind. If the rudder fails the boat is directionless. If the sails or the oars break, the boat won't move. And if the hull of the boat is eaten up from within in plank by plank by controversial termites the boat will sink not into the water but into a sea of alcohol. Remember, there is just one boat and we are all in it together. If the boat goes down, we all go down with it.

#### Round table wrap up:

GSR Group 6 -Dianne: It's not political, it's how we do business. It takes time and patience to change AA.

GSR Group - Chris: Agenda items. Reporting back to groups. Dwindling participation. GSR represents group and district. Exchange info. Facilitate bringing info to/from groups/districts. Types of assemblies coming up. Delivering topics for the conference.

GSR Group 1-Nicki: travel obligations of GSR - attend all assemblies if funds available, attend PRAASA, communicate communication to/from assemblies, importance of function of group. GSR primary purpose is to communicate, attend service functions, be involved in group, carry group conscience. Discussed what GSR does. GSR represents one group, has one vote.

GSR Group 3- David: Enthusiasm is contagious. Take area service back to out home group. Get involved and excited. Take our enthusiasm back to out home groups. Spread the message: Purpose of area service.

Patience, tolerance, and understanding. Place to learn to take principles of AA and apply to our lives.

Importance of voice. Service structure designed for participation, not about results, but about process.

GSR job: communication link between group> district> area> GSO.

Individual members can contact NY GSO directly if concern is valid. GSO can submit to agenda to be discussed and taken back to home groups.

Home Group ←---Ideas---> GSO

GSR Group -Bill: Listen without being emotionally involved. Find out what the whole group thinks, ask for courtesy, stick to traditions, agenda, process. Responsibilities - bring materials with you are the link between home group and AA as a whole.



Abandoned service positions? 7<sup>th</sup> tradition thieves -don't keep too much money on hand, call GSO, have 2-3 signers on the checks.

GSR Group Facilitator: Keith

Discussed GSR Handbook as a resource.

What is a GSR? The information line between the group & the General Service Conference. GSR represents the group at the district level. Exchanges information with other groups. Devises ways to bring information to/from groups/District e.g., Honolulu Public Information Committee might arrange to put schedules in Waikiki hotels.

What a GSR is not- Does not cover Intergroup affairs. Does not blindly carry out Group's requests. The Right of decision. May vote against the group's decision if additional information is presented which changes the picture. Not a babysitter or policeman for the group

Where do Agenda items come from? District Committee meetings. Usually precede Area Assemblies. Various issues considered & Agenda for Assemblies are drafted Next Assembly: "Inform the Delegate" Topics presented for the General Service Conference. Delegate gets input re: groups' opinions on the topics

How can GSRs report back to Home Groups- Set by each group conscience. Leave Area materials out at meetings. Written/oral reports. Delegate/Chair provides "What to Take Back to Your Group" bullet points

Ways to address dwindling member participation/attendance (at meetings, for service)- Really only takes 1 or 2 members for meeting/to fill a service position. Speak positively of your service experiences. Encourage others to try. Insist your sponsees take service positions. Do service with your sponsees.

GSR Group, Facilitator: Scott C. Topics for discussion:

What is the purpose for a GSR?

- The GSR's primary purpose is to communicate between the group and the area. This includes the responsibilities of being closely involved in the group to know the wishes of the group, and paying close attention at assemblies to correctly bring information back to the group.
- GSRs are to act as an example to others & make service attractive in order to,
- Get other people involved in service.

What are the travel obligations of a GSR?

- GSRs should attend monthly area meetings. They should also attend assemblies and PRAASA when the group is able to send them. If the group is not able, and the GSR is willing to be financially responsible for attendance, they should attend.
- The GSR should communicate the wishes of the group to the area representatives.

- The *GSR* should communicate the function of *General Service*, and the current issues in *General Service*, to their group.

What does a *GSR* report back to the group?

- Activities at each assembly should be reported to the group. Reports on the assembly should be made available to the group when posted.
- Changes to literature.
- Information on future area assemblies.
- Information on standing committees; what they are doing in your area and how it may affect your group.
- Any additional information from the delegate.

How many groups can a *GSR* represent?

- Each *GSR* gets only one vote in elections. If a *GSR* holds more than one voting position (for instance *GSR* at two groups), they still get only one vote. If they attempt to hold two *GSR* positions, they would not be able to properly represent both groups in elections/votes.
- Although groups try to include as many members as possible in service, a *GSR* may hold multiple service positions as long as they do not create a voting conflict.

#### DCM round table wrap up:

DCM's main job is to be the communication conduit for the connection between the group's area and *GSO*.

Inform your *GSR*'s about every bit of information needed for the home group to be well informed. And help them scheduling travel reservations for assemblies, keeping them enthusiastic, so to keep interest in district meetings and assemblies.

For your district find all the contacts for home groups, and try to attend there meetings, preferably owe of there business meetings, to show them the unity of *A.A*, especially in the district.

Also we were oriented about committee meeting and assembly meeting schedules. For example the February committee meeting is vital to get information about the agenda items for the *GSO* conference, that we need our home groups to talk about and decide about, so *GSR*'s can bring back to district and the inform the delegate assembly in April. That way our delegate is well informed for the conference.

Last of all we met with the webmaster to learn how to access our e-mails on the area website.

Break at 1:55 PM

Panel presentation - Introduction to Concepts 1-5: Dick .M, Elizabeth M., Vernon G., Scott C.

Concept 1 & 2 - deal with the creation of the GSC. Carries the message to other countries. Publishes. Structure that allows us to function.

Concept 3 - Right of decision. Consult your group. Vote your conscience. Render reports of your action. Trusted servant. What's best for AA as a whole. Have an open mind.

Concept 4 - Right of participation. Balance of power. There are no second class citizens in AA. If you participate, you have a right to vote. Final authority lies in AA groups. Delegates need to be able to be participants and not messengers.

Concept 5 - Minority opinion. Every member has a voice. Right of petition of redress. Presented in writing to area chair. 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy when electing trusted servants - names placed in the hat after the 4<sup>th</sup> vote. Voting on a motion- minorities have an opportunity to present their views, even after a majority decision. This gives us another chance to reflect - are we doing the right thing.

Q. Steve -Concept 5 Once minority restates their position, does the majority also restate their position? A. No. If someone in the majority changes their vote, we vote to revoke.

Q. Suzanne - Minority speaks, we ask majority if they want to change their vote. Do we automatically revoke? A. Cheryl will cover this tomorrow. If nobody wants to change their vote, the decision stands.

Break at 2:30 PM

In attendance today 56 GSRs, and 7 Alternate GSRs. 12 DCMs and 3 Alternate DCMs, 3 Intergroup Chairs, 1 Central Office Manager/Past Delegate, 4 more Past Delegates, 9 Standing committee chairs, 98 attending, 88 voting members.

Robert's Rules of Order - Cheryl N. - was reviewed page 8-9 in Area 17's Structures & Guidelines. Quorum = 50% voting members +1. Types of votes reviewed. Procedure for voting was reviewed.

Q. Gene - Please clarify: Simple majority 51%, Quorum 50% +1.

Q. Diane - When do we take a tabled motion off the table and reactivate? A. It's scheduled to a specific date, usually.

Q. Palani - What is a quorum? When do you use 51% and 2/3<sup>rd</sup>. A. Quorum - how many people are here. 50%+1. Simple majority requires and 51% majority. Major decisions require substantial unanimity. Also: Caution in rushing votes. It can create controversy.

Service Sponsorship - Keith H. - Sponsor shares his/her experience in an ongoing manner. Ask someone who has been through it. Learn from others. Ask someone who has done the job before, understand concepts, understand the process, is

enthusiastic about sobriety. Information corresponds with what you are reading. People are service sponsors because they want to pass on to others, what they know.

#### Q & A - What's on your mind?

Kevin - Open AA Valentine meeting. Monday Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. Waikiki Community Center.

Kevin - April 15-17 23<sup>rd</sup> Big Island Bash

Keith - PRAASA March 3-6 at Ala Moana Hotel. Hasn't been here since 1999, It could be 12 years before it is here again. Come! Registration is online at praasa.org

Linda- PRAASA Needs names as presenters, panel moderators, readers, timers, recorders, etc.

Libette - Various subscriptions to Grapevine

Loyal - Has a better understanding service - and passing it on to his home group.

#### Host DCM announcements

Adjourn at 3:31PM - Dinner served by Honolulu District

Hawaii Area 17 Orientation Assembly

Sunday January 16, 2011

Hosted by Honolulu District

#### Call to Order @ 9:10AM

· Serenity Prayer

· Reading - Sandy -Why do we need a service conference? S20, Service Manual

· Host DCM announcements- Jackie

Introduction of Corrections Chair (confirmation not needed) - Lena

#### Area Officers Reports

Delegate Report - Linda McD.- First, I want to especially thank the Honolulu District for hosting this assembly. This is the hardest assembly to host because of the recent rotation, but, as always, our service people came through.

We are all here in general service to carry out our Third Legacy, service. Our area business is the business of Alcoholics Anonymous. Although some of us have been in area service for a while, most of us are all starting fresh with Panel 61. While our individual responsibilities may vary from position to position, we are united by our primary purpose - service, defined as anything that helps carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The goal of this assembly is to start each of us on the path to better understand the responsibilities attached to our service positions. There is a wealth of knowledge in this room today, so it is the perfect time to ask questions. Talk to those who have previous experience in your position, read the recommended literature, and gather phone numbers and email addresses.

You are hearing a lot of information this weekend that you may not understand right away. That's OK. You will not be alone. By the time you understand it all, it'll be time

for you to rotate onto another position. You are the future of A.A.. Just remember that we never have to do anything alone, including general service.

As Area Delegate, I act as a conduit between our assembly members and the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is my responsibility to carry your collective consensus to the General Service Conference (GSC) in New York City the first week in May. In April, we will have the Inform-the-Delegate Assembly during which we will discuss matters that will be on the GSC agenda. Through the process, you will inform me as to your position on the items so that I will be able to know your preferences. Following the GSC, I will report back to each district in our area the highlights of the conference. About mid-summer, GSO will publish the "Final Conference Report," which will be made available to each of you. Don't worry, way more will be revealed on all of the aforementioned stuff.

And speaking of the General Service Conference, here is some basic information on that. The GSC is where the business of A.A. as a whole is conducted. For example, if you look at one of our pamphlets, often on the front is printed "*This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.*" That means that pamphlet has gone through a whole process that may have started with one member who took an idea to a home group, who then passed it on to a district, then on to an area, and then on to the appropriate conference committee at GSO for discussion. Next the topic may go out to the entire Fellowship around the country to gather consensus from each of the 93 areas in the USA and Canada, after which the area delegate will then take his or her area's collective voice on the topic back to New York. And this process may be repeated before a final decision is reached on the acceptance of the idea that started with one member somewhere in the USA or Canada.

The 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference will have 134 voting members, made up of 93 area delegates, 27 trustees and directors, and 14 staff from GSO and The Grapevine office. You have heard more details earlier this weekend about who all these people are and what role they play in the day-to-day operation of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Currently, in response to actions taken at the 60<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference one new piece of literature is being developed and two pamphlets are being updated. GSO is looking for stories for all three pamphlets:

1. Submissions on personal stories, which focus on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. The story collection will reflect a wide range of spiritual experience from A.A. members who, with any belief or non-belief, have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

2. Submissions of personal stories are being sought to humanize the impact of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition monies. This is for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support.

3.Submission of personal stories on recent experiences from members on active duty or from veterans of the Armed Services. The stories would be used to update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

Any manuscripts submitted should be 500-800 words, double-spaced. Attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please send your sharing no later than February 15, 2011 to:

Literature Coordinator

General Service Office

Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

or email: [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org)

Please take these requests for stories to your home groups. (If you did not get the address or email, it is available in this report, which is posted on our area Website - [area17aa.org](http://area17aa.org)) By the way, the idea for literature that focuses on spirituality, including stories from atheists and agnostics started in our area. A group brought the idea to its district, which in turn brought the idea to area. After discussion by the assembly, the idea was then submitted to GSO. And so here we are asking for stories for a new pamphlet or other piece of literature that started right here. That is just one example of the difference one individual voice can make in A.A. as a whole.

And now for some local news: March 4-6 Hawaii Area will host PRAASA 2011 at the Ala Moana Hotel on Oahu. PRAASA stands for Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. Hawaii Area (17) and 14 other areas throughout the western United States, gather each year to develop greater unity among 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 A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee foster the Recovery, Unity, and Service legacies of A.A. The assembly is an awesome experience that I just don't have the words to describe.

The last time that PRAASA took place in Hawaii is 1999 on the Big Island. The last time the event was on Oahu was 1989. This is a significant opportunity for us to show how our aloha spirit lives in the service of A.A. in Area 17. During the 3-day assembly, panels are presented on topics that will be discussed at the General Service Conference. By the time PRAASA starts, you should know which topic has been assigned to your district for discussion at our Inform-the-Delegate Assembly, so you will be able to do some research on your district's topic. We may also have some surprises for you at the Inform-the-Delegate Assembly, so you will want to be as well informed as possible. How many people are planning on attending PRAASA? How

many people are registered? There should be registration forms here this weekend or you can go to [praasa.org](http://praasa.org) and register online. In addition to the registration form, there is a volunteer form that you can fill out to be of service that weekend. A few hundred volunteers will be needed, so there is plenty of space. Please announce this at your home groups.

The theme for PRAASA 2011 (and for the 61<sup>st</sup> GSC) is *We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let it Begin With Us*. Notice the use of the word "us." It does not say "Let it Begin With Me!" Discussion panels and workshop topics will include:

- Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age
- An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.
- Diversity in A.A.
- Sponsorship
- How to Increase Participation in A.A.-Striving for Self-Support in All Our Affairs

These topics, on the surface, may not make you hold your breath in anticipation of what's next, but, believe me when I tell you, our Program Chair and Co-Chair are working to spice things up. Please come and join in the fun.

Finally, I cannot tell you how excited I am about the honor of serving as your Delegate for the next two years. Just like you, I was taken prisoner by alcohol. Mere survival of my physical being was somehow achieved, but everything else was buried under a pile of deadly wreckage. I was literally delivered to the doorstep of Alcoholics Anonymous, and I am forever grateful that you took me in and gave me life.

Alternate Delegate -Ken :

Chair - Cheryl: Hope you're as excited as I am about being able to participate in the fellowship. Insuring that AA will be here for generations to come. New in sobriety attending, seeing their faces light up. Faces light up. True for those new in service. Keep you posted regarding What to take back to your districts.

Alternate Chair - Bob: 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, Jacquie 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.

Secretary - Coleen: Thank you for letting me be of service. Please use the area email system to send me your reports by the end of this week. A draft will be sent to you in two weeks. If you do not use computers, please submit your report in writing to me today. It's OK for your reports to be brief/concise. But, please don't add any information that you did not present today.



Treasurer - Sheri: Collects 7<sup>th</sup> traditions contributions. It's a kick to see all these groups. Another job is to pay the bills. A lot of it is airfare, shop around and book early and it will help us out on the budget. Work with finance committee. Bob, three DCMs, Mattea - Kauai, Ed - Maui, Ken - Puna We meet at lunch every lunch every committee meeting and assembly. If you have question, please talk to a member of the finance committee.

Registrar- Adina: Thank you for completing the paper work. Will get contact list out tomorrow. How to connect with her, and others.

PRAASA 2011 Report - Keith: This is your PRAASA, let's host it. Please register and come. 239 have registered so far. 185 banquets, it will sell out, please register early. Make the announcement, participation of every GSR from every group in Hawaii. Let's show them that we're here supporting PRAASA. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> the room block will be open. Reserve your room at Ala Moana. We have an agreement Hawaiian Airlines and Continental - see the current Mynah Bird about that. If you use that code, we accumulate miles, and it helps us offset the cost of trustees coming, and may be able to give to the area after, so our cost can come down too. But, that's for the finance committee to decide. Bob our website guy has been helping for two years. Co-chair, Vernon is program chair. Adina is secretary. Look for them to answer your questions as well.

Q/A. Kona tower is booked. Rate is now \$119. Q/A We'll get the miles even if you don't get a discount. Q/A. We want everybody to attend, and would like everyone to register. If you cannot afford the registration, please come and be of service. Q/A Line item to sponsor others? - goes into a pool to help others. Q/A Atkinson YMCA across street has rooms for men and women. Q/A Topics will be discussed at 20 round tables - over the weekend. Alt. Chairs, Chairs, DCMs, etc. Also round table discussions. Topics you want to go hear about. Panel discussions involve what is on the Conference Agenda.

#### Standing Committee Roundtables

· Assignments drawn from the hat

· Roundtable

Break at 11:05AM

· Wrap Up

Website-Hugh: Videoconference, ways to use the website. what do other areas do - ask at PRAASA and come back with suggestions.

Archives -Mattea: Be a district archives chair and collect AA related stuff. Send them to the Area non Rotating archivist. Education - Be part of your district archives committee, and get schedules, flyers, minutes.

Treatment - Diane: Anyone can be involved to service in treatment, contact Treatment chair. Makes sure literature available in treatment centers, Bridge the Gap.

CPC - David: How to deal with companies dealing with Alcoholism. Where there is a

need for help. Where and when we should inform the companies and of what literature. If you would like to volunteer, contact is [cpc@area17aa.org](mailto:cpc@area17aa.org)  
Mynah Bird- Cathy: Items gets published. Distribution. Make MB a personal experience.

GV - Libette: First and foremost we realize that The Grapevine is OUR meeting in print and it is by AA members and includes artwork and photographs by AA members and of course OUR stories. Personally, I've recently gone on a trip and it took me a few days to get to an AA meeting and it was really helpful for me to have a Grapevine when I needed it the most. I had heard that a family member passed away and of course the god-shot was that the story I read in the Grapevine I had was about someone who had committed suicide as a result of this disease and my uncle had died as a result of his alcoholism.

Moving on, my goals and hopefully our goals would be to increase our subscriptions by 384 in the next two years, 192 each year, 16 a month on average. This weekend, I am so grateful to say that so far we have upped our subscriptions by 6 AA Grapevines in print.

It is important to know that there are a few ways to get The Grapevine. It is available in print for \$26.97, digital format for \$19.97. In audio format for \$19.97, if you are a person who likes to hear stories. There are also a lot of books available at [www.grapevine.org](http://www.grapevine.org).

We are also thinking about how we can gift these subscriptions. For those of us who already have a subscription but would like to purchase a copy for others, we are compiling a list of places like rehab facilities, hospitals, institutions, treatment centers that need Grapevines but don't have one. Individuals will be invited to purchase a gift subscription for those in need.

We are looking forward to having a computer available at events like the conventions and assemblies so that it makes it easy for people to subscribe and explore the different formats of the Grapevine.

PI - Chris S-C: Check out the AA books the library, so the library does not discard them. Committee goals have lit racks in high school, letters to write to school - see workbook for examples. We also discussed the similarities and differences between PI and CPC.

Hospitals - Michelle: Communicate with CPC, literature, grapevine for hospitals to have.

Check with someone in my district to help show the way. Announce for more participation from other groups.

Ideas for transportation and communication between hospitals and central office.

Willingness to volunteer groups to take meetings into hospitals once a month - recruit home groups to pick and commit to 1 meeting a month.

Be open minded for other ideas and suggestions for more of the message to be carried.

Has representation from all four islands.

CEC - Mare : Elders not elderly. Huge population it is becoming. CEC workbook

proposal - as Area 17 literature. Will edit and present to area.

Corrections - Carolyn: There are requirements to go into prisons. 5 facilities on Oahu, one of Maui, and one on Kauai. Great, wonderful part of AA to take meetings into prison. Differences between islands, different types of meetings depending on the facility.

Convention - Kunane: Convention listened to what the fellowship said -look at how they operate, relationship between Convention and Hawaii Area Committee. Goal is to improve communication. Committee chair attended -Ti . Both Ti and Kunane can answer question about the convention.

Archives - Corrine: collects stuff: meeting schedules, island directories, old timer's, history of our home group, history of AA as a whole. Your trash is archives treasure.

Lunch at 11:40 AM

So, you want to make a motion? - Vernon G.

Purpose of area is to support Delegate, and to conduct the business for the area. No right way/no wrong way. Chair sets the agenda.

Making motions: May come to the area from an individual, group, district, area officers. Is there a need in the fellowship for this? Groups take your concern to district. If districts agree, that district can bring a motion, proposal, something to discuss to the assembly. Assembly discusses it. Then the assembly votes, If we have substantial unanimity, we then send the item to New York. The wording of the motion is very important.

Reviewed our voting procedure. - see Area 17 Structures and Guidelines.

If you have an idea, take it to your group first. The proposal is more powerful if it comes from your group, district, area.

Proposals that Area 17 has generated:

Changing the pamphlet for the teenager. - illustrations and wording

Literature that included stories from atheist/agnostics that have stayed sober.

Q/A Minority opinion can choose to speak, or choose not to.

Q/A Simple majority votes - i.e. simple housekeeping chore. Substantial unanimity 2/3rds- all proposals.

Q/A S & G types of voting results. Simple majority - 51%, not 50% =1. Quorum is different - quorum is what we need to conduct business. Page 9 item 10.3.b in S & G.

DCM Reports

DCM #1 Diamond Head- Kevin: Diamond Head: Leave assemblies bigger than we walked in. Two young peoples group: Knuckleheads, and Sick and Twisted. People who don't want anything to do with area, are part of area too. Participate in other ways by putting on events. Thank all for contributions and service to district and area.

DCM #7 East Hawaii- Alfred: I am the new DCM for District #7, my name is Alfred N. I am grateful to be in service at Area 17.

GSR reports

1. Attitude Adjustment: Meetings Monday to Friday at 8:00am: There been some

people disturbing the meeting. The problem was taken care of peacefully and with care to not chase him or others from the meeting. They are reforming the meeting to make it comfortable to all who come and most of all the newcomers.

2. Friday Night Special, reported that as of January 2011 Friday night special will be moving to Thursday night 7-8pm at the same location.

3. AA By The Bay, had its December event "Crunch Before the Christmas Brunch", there was about 75 to 90 people there. The bulk of the food was prepared by AA By The Bay Members and potluck was brought by other groups. AA by the bay is currently working on their "Easter Feaster" event on April 24th.

4. I am slowly getting to all of the meetings in my district to let them know who I am and my will to bring their message to this body and to help my districts concerns.

5. We are still looking to fill the slots for some committee positions.

6. Our PI chair is looking to all for PSA's that may be available.

7. Our corrections just gave us the date for registration and orientation class to take meetings into jail.

DCM #3 Leeward - Diane: I am happy to report that all of District 3's GSR's are here at the Orientation Assembly. That would be exactly two. We had our first District meeting of 2011 on January 6. Although we are a small district, our goal for the upcoming months is to visit our groups to encourage them to elect a GSR and to support the district. We will be sending information about the district, Area 17 and General Service to them on a regular basis.

DCM #9 Central North Shore- Eric: I would like to begin by thanking the Honolulu District for hosting the assembly and all the effort that went into preparing for this weekend. With me today at the Assembly are: Collette from Wahiawa Saturday Morning, Sandy from Miliani Women's Steps and Traditions, Alika from Mililani Men's Stag.

District 9, serving Central and North Shore Oahu, begins Panel 61 with all district officer positions filled and our Corrections and CPC committees populated. I am also pleased to report our current budget is in the black, we have a proposed budget for 2011, and we are beginning the panel with the benefit of a district structures and guidelines in place.

Having this structure in place is not something I take for granted so I would like to recognize and thank my fellow district members from the last panel for their hard work, time, and energy. I learned a lot about general service by their example.

We were especially fortunate to have Sheri as our DCM and I want to take another opportunity to thank her. She built a lot of momentum for our district in terms of increasing participation. She began our meet and greet meetings where she and district members attended under-represented to meetings to increase awareness about general service. Sheri was instrumental in bringing me into service work by making me feel welcome and she's patiently continued to answer an onslaught of questions from me from my first district meeting to today.

This Thursday we have our first district meeting at 7:00 PM at the Methodist Church in Wahiawa. We will put our heads together and discuss how best to continue the momentum built last panel to increase participation in general service and serve the groups of Central Oahu and North Shore as they carry the message. Thank you for being here for my sobriety.

DCM #11 Kihei- Karen: Kihei District has 3 GSR's and 1 Alternate GSR at this weekend's assembly. We have a full slate of officers and we have committee chairs for the following committees: CEC, PI, CPC and Corrections. One of the goals for this panel is to have committee chairs for more of the committees (our District Committees parallel Area Committees) and for a higher attendance rate at District meetings by GSR's - some of the groups in our district have GSR's that don't attend District meetings. As a result of some discussions we had during the last panel, we have begun conversations with the other Districts on Maui (No Ka` Oi, and Tri-Island) to combine some of our resources to be more productive in our committee work. We'll have our first District meeting for this panel on Tuesday, January 18.

DCM #12 Puna- Ken: Aloha! I am an alcoholic, my name is Ken. I am honored to serve as the DCM for District 12, Puna. I would like to thank the Honolulu District for hosting this Assembly, and to all the people that are in service a very warm Mahalo! The Puna District had its first meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Despite the closing of our meeting place and a change in dates, we had a good turnout of new GSR's and members interested in service work. I am in the process of visiting Groups that have no representation at the District level, and I am trying to spread my enthusiasm in service. We are in the planning stage of hosting a "Service Workshop" to introduce members to the Standing Committees and the different services they provide. It is my goal to have members at the District level serving on each committee. I want to thank everyone here for being in service. I look forward to working with you throughout this Panel, and in all the years to come.

DCM #17 Waianae - Bart:

Aloha! My name is Bart, and I am an alcoholic. I'm the new DCM for District 17, Waianae. My previous service position was GSR for my home group, Makakilo Hill Climbers, which is within the Waianae District. District 17 is a geographically large area, covering Ft. Weaver Road in Ewa Beach out to Makaha. We've got about 20 groups registered with the Area, about ten strong groups, and three groups represented at this assembly. Personally, I want to become more familiar with the groups in the district, strengthening ties with groups that do participate at the district level and visiting meetings that aren't participating to inform the district service and get to know them better. As a district, we're planning quarterly workshops, and looking into a day-long workshop on service in March, with half a day of training, lunch, and a fun activity in the afternoon.

DCM #13 Tri Island - Matt: It hurt our feelings to be called dark, unresponsive, etc. The Crossing - outreach program to Moloka`i and Lana`I, has been successful. PI went to Lanai on a past panel, brought literature. Committee chairs don't know what we need unless we tell them.

DCM #5 No Ka`Oi - Ed : verbatim

DCM #2 Honolulu - Jacquie: Hello, I am a grateful recovering alcoholic and my name is Jacquie. I am currently serving as your DCM for the Honolulu District (#2). Hosting the Orientation Assembly this weekend has definitely been a learning experience. I want to thank everyone for helping to make this weekend a pleasant experience. I am especially grateful to the out-going DCM, Chris N., for having most of it pre-arranged and for continuing to be of service to the Honolulu District during this transition. Our District met earlier this month mostly to prepare for this Assembly. We have 4 new GSRs and a few GSRs that are staying on from the previous panel. There are 5 GSRs who are attending this Assembly. The Honolulu District has 3 upcoming events:

1. Martin Luther King Day Picnic - held at Kapiolani Beach Park on January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10AM. Hosted by the Black Experience Group.
2. Aloha Roundup - held at the Ala Moana Beach Park on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Hosted by the Kane Alii Group. This is a gay and lesbian group but all are welcome. You can find more information about this event at their website - [www.aloharoundup.com](http://www.aloharoundup.com)
3. Black History Month Dance - held at the Fleet Reserve on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. The cost is \$5. Hosted by the Black Experience Group.

At our monthly District Meeting, a few groups reported that they are struggling to survive and are asking for support. However, there is a fairly new group, Kalihi Sobriety, that is growing fast. I can remember when it was not a registered group and there were only 5-6 members in attendance. Now the room is often filled and they have a birthday meeting on the last Sunday of each month with food and entertainment. I definitely have much work to do. I have a list from GSO (dated 2009) and there are 30+ groups in my District. Many I have never heard of and a few that we lost contact with. I will do my best to introduce myself to these groups and hopefully spur interest in General Service. Thank You for Letting Me Be of Service!

DCM #4 Windward - Suzanne: Here's an update on my district's activities: we have formed an ad-hoc committee that will develop guidelines for all positions in the district.

Each member is to write up a "job description" of their position.

Those will be discussed and developed by the committee. For inspiration and ideas, we're using the Area 17 Guidelines, the A.A. Service Manual and the Oregon Area 58, District 26 Guidelines. We are also drawing on the experiences of individuals.

We are meeting once a week and already have developed articles for our guidelines!

All of our Standing Committee's have been filled except for Web site and CPC.

### DCM #8 West Hawaii - Tommy G.

Thank you Honolulu district for hosting our orientation assembly Dist. 8 officers are all filled and ready to serve.

District #8 had a big challenge as our first district meeting is scheduled for the week after the assembly. I am proud of our new GSR's for planning ahead and attending this assembly. West Hawaii has 13 GSR's attending this orientation assembly.

The DCM round table was very informing, thank you Cheryl and Sheri.

Also having the GSR's pull Standing committee names from the hat should help our districts fill our subcommittees.

### DCM #6, Kauai - Alejandro H.:

I am Alejandro and I am an alcoholic, and also the DCM for District 6.

I want to welcome all new members of panel 61, at Area and Districts level. And every single member that is in service here today.

Also I want to congratulate all those new GSR's and alternate GSR's for stepping into service. I just have one suggestion for you. Don't fear the assemblies, more will be revealed. Trust the steps, the Traditions and your Higher Power. As you know I am not here physically but I am here in spirit, and I will be thinking about you the entire weekend. I am looking forward to see you on Kauai for the "Inform the Delegate Assembly" on April 9 and 10, 2011.

I do have some news to share with you about Kauai. I will be dishonest if I hide secretes from you. Just days before our first District 6 meeting, I decided to go back to school. My classes will start on August 2011, and these classes are schedule on the weekends. So I will be missing assemblies and Committee meetings. And for that reason, I am stepping down on July 2011 as DCM for District 6.

I apologized for the short and unexpected notice.

Believe me I feel that I am setting a bad example about my commitment to Service.

I have a life today thanks to AA and to the Service commitments.

I will continue to be at Service in my Home group and District. As a matter of fact, last week we started with the planning of the Inform the Delegate Assembly. And we already have a location, a committee and a flier.

We have a couple of new meetings; we have Thursdays in Hanamaulu "NO CAN" Grapevine format with an attendance of 15 to 20 people. On Sundays at noon at the Lihue Neighborhood center we have "Sunday noon 12X12". Also District 6 is sponsoring a "Concepts Workshop " on every second Sunday of the month, last week we read and discussed Concept I.

God willing at our next District meeting we will elect the standing committee chairs for panel 61.

Every Tuesday afternoon there is a panel of two or three members that brings the AA meeting into the Kauai Correctional Center.

This concludes my report, have a great assembly, God bless you all and God bless Alcoholics Anonymous.

DCM #10 Waikiki - Alan Y.: 5 GSR's in attendance, Kevin: Waikiki Men's Stag, JD: Sat Nite Live, Joe: Bad Brains, Carl: Solutions, Darryl: Happy Hour. January's dist mtg had 9 people in attendance. Dist 10 will be hosting Feb 19 comittee mtg at Waikiki comm. ctr. Goals for Dist 10: bring up attendance for upcomming years. 15 mtgs in dist. DCM's, Standing committee, and Panel that did not get a Feb committee mtg flier, come and see me! Thanks for allowing me to be in service, aloha!

### Intergroup Chairs

Kauai -Mathea. Deputy Intergroup Chair: This is the best of times and the worst of times for Kauai Intergroup. The best is that 16-18 people attend the monthly Intergroup meeting which is markedly up from the five to six of several years ago. The worst of times is that the cash balance for Intergroup runs \$300 to \$400 instead of \$2500 to \$3000 of a few years back. We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 am in the Lihue Neighborhood Center for one to one and one half hours. All service positions are filled. Lu A is our Panel 61 chair, Bob B is alternate chair, Susan OK is secretary, Mike C is treasurer, Danette and Mark M are literature chairs, Linda B is newsletter chair, Damione V is phone chair, Tom R is schedule coordinator and Chris K is events coordinator. Some discussions abound whether Intergroup should have Public Information, Corrections, Cooperation with Professional Community and or Hospital chairs along with District, only if District does not, or whatever. Intergroup is prioritizing its funds with its responsibilities the main ones of which are answering our AA phone line and publishing our AA Meetings schedule. We do not have a physical Intergroup office and hand our phones



off to designated volunteers to cover the island 24/7. Our website is handled by John H. from Oahu with information from Mathea A. All is well in Kauai.

East Hawaii/Puna -Billy: Looking for new sites to hold our alcathons. Available to sit in on district meetings, and district invited to sit in on Intergroup meetings.

West Hawaii - Bob D.: WEST HAWAII INTERGROUP REPORT-ALOHA MY NAME IS BOB AND I TOO AM A ALCOHOLIC.STRICTLY SOLUTIONS IS MY HOME GROUP IT IS A CLOSED MENS MEETING WE MEET ON TUESDAYS @ 5.00 PM IF YOU ARE EVER IN KONA PLEASE COME VISIT US. IT IS A PLEASURE AND A HONOR TO BE OF SERVICE,I CURRENTLY SERVE AS WEST HAWAII INTERGROUP CHAIR. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK HONOLULU DISTRICT 2 FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT. WEST HAWAII INTERGROUP ELECTIONS WERE JUST COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER AND ALL OF OUR SERVICE POSITIONS ARE FULFILLED AT THIS TIME. THE INTERGROUP OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 10.00-6.00. IT IS MANAGED BY RACHEL P. AND STAFFED BY SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS.WE ARE STOCKS WITH BOOKS AND LITERATURE AND MEETING SCHEDULES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE. DURING THIS PANEL WEST HAWAII INTERGROUP WILL BE EXAMINING OUR CURRENT BYLAWS TO SO IF ANY CHANGES ARE WARRANTED AT THIS TIME.THERE HAVE BEEN CONCERNS THAT WE ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE BYLAWS AND I HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT IS NOT TRUE. I HAVE INVITED THE NEW DCM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS. WEST HAWAII'S WEB SITE IS UP AND RUNNING, PLEASE VISIT IT. THE COCONUT WIRELESS IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED BUT SHOULD BE BACK UP SOON. TELESERVICE IS UP AND RUNNING AND ALSO FULLY STAFFED AND IS CURENTLY LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS. OVERALL INTERGROUP IS PROVIDING A SERVICE FOR WEST HAWAII AA, AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO TRY TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE IT. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO BE OF SERVICE TO THIS PANEL 61 AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL. RESPECTFULLY, BOB D WEST HAWAII INTERGROUP CHAIR.

Oahu - Dick: Sponsored Founders Day. Provides for central office. Budget is \$90,000.00/year. 190 registered groups. In 2010 received at least 1 contributions from 94 groups. Received telephone calls, 382 12 step calls. 840 visitors to office. 28 phone volunteers. 97 12 step volunteers. 9 languages are represented.

### Committee Reports

Treatment - Chris N.: Goal is a monthly meeting of this committee. Go into treatment centers to insure literature is available and there is some way for the treatment facility clients to bridge the gap- sober support, sponsors or temporary sponsors, literature, speak to client, workshop for treatment staff, meeting attendance with clients upon discharge, presentations for treatment facilities, video-Hope, liaison to our neighbor islands, clarify what AA is and is not I.E. form. Anyone

can be involved in service to treatment facilities, not just members of area assembly. Call/contact Chris if interested.

Corrections - Lena: Mahalo to everyone who is in service at this level. Without you coming back over and over again there would be no meetings in prisons. We still need a lot of help in bringing the message behind the walls. Please, if you have the time to make a commitment once a month, call me. (Oahu - see area confidential phone list). Hawaii Island training Jan 19-22, 8:00-4:30. Contact Lena for the phone number. Maui - Women going in once a week, three at a time. They have 20 women involved. Contact Lena for Joan's number. Corrections @area17aa.org

Mynah Bird - Kathy S.:

The first issue of panel 61 Mynah Bird was presented at the assembly. The web version was added by Hugh, webmaster on Sunday. At an enthusiastic roundtable, three primary goals were discussed:

1. Addressing the Importance and timeliness of publishing Mynah Bird for the groups.
2. How to improve distribution, to carry the message to the alcoholic.
3. Making the Mynah Bird a "personal experience".

We need to generate enthusiasm for our publication in order to get contributing articles from our group members. We need to always keep in mind unity of purpose. Look for some changes in the physical format of the newsletter to keep the "eye" interested in reading the articles. I will be working with DCM's to keep GSR's informed to deadlines to pass on to the groups. I will follow-up with DCM's to make sure they get the current issue to all GSR's even if they don't come to district meetings. This will be accomplished by suggesting they access the newsletter on the website. My thanks to Cheryl N., past MB chair, and Bob H. for his patience and generosity of time to get this first issue published.

CEC - Rochelle: Need a desire to be 60, 70, 80 and sober. Goal is to have Workbook ready.

CPC - Susan O`N: provide info to individuals who come in contact with alcoholics, professions who steer alcoholics to sobriety: health care workers, lawyers, union leaders, etc. Needs us to tell her who in the community needs to know what AA is and what AA is not. Needs members for her committee.

Hospitals - Jim: Goals 1. Improve communication between those answering phones and those in groups doing the work in hospitals. 2. Improve communication with AA as a whole and hospital personnel. DCMs let Jim know who is your district's Hospital chair, and who is participating in hospital group. Ask you groups: who works in the hospital? Who is willing to go in and do meetings in the hospitals, who is will to take literature to hospitals?

Convention - Kunane :

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Aloha. It's truly an honor to serve as this year's Annual Hawaii Convention Steering Committee Chair. I am looking forward to be part of the Area during the upcoming panel.

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2011 Hawai'i Convention I'd like to introduce Tayshae, 2011 Convention Chair. If you have any questions and want to be in service, please see T. The first committee meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00pm at Kaumakapili Church. Neighbor island members are encouraged to be of service also. Online registration is open and registration forms are available here. Please take a few back to your home groups. Any questions regarding this year's convention, the program and service, please call T.

2010 Hawai'i Convention The 2010 Annual Hawaii Convention was a huge success. We moved back to the hotel. The convention was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Although this was our first year back at a hotel with some confusion on "move in" day, the convention itself was enjoyed by all in attendance. We are reviewing the comment sheets, notes from the forum and comments given to us by the fellowship to see what worked, what didn't and how we can improve the convention. There were 1100 attendees. Thursday night is still FREE and open to the fellowship. That will be the same for this year also.

The Hilton loves us. Since we are new to the Hilton, we have to establish our relationship with them. After the 2010 convention, they absolutely love us. We made our room blocks, fulfilled the minimum meal counts and paid our bills on time. We are working on securing dates two years out vs. one.

The financial reports from the convention will be provided to the Area at the February committee meeting as outlined in Appendix C. I can report that we have moved \$10,000 to start the replenishment of the prudent reserve.

Motion to sever the relationship with the Area and the Convention : At the November Election Assembly, the area did not approve the motion to sever the relationship between the convention and the area through its group conscience. However, the discussion regarding the motion was heard by the steering committee. Last week, the steering committee did an inventory of ourselves. We will be reviewing the notes from the inventory and coming up with action items to better improve the communication between the steering committee and the area. The steering committee will start by posting all steering committee minutes on the Area website. I ask you, when reading the minutes, should have any questions, please contact me. We know that minutes can be interpreted in many ways. The December minutes are up on the website now. We want to honor the group conscience and the discussion that took place.

Appendix C We are reviewing Appendix C to make necessary updates and changes. These changes will be brought to the Area for review and approval.

Round Table We had great discussion during the standing committee round table. Again, if anyone has any questions for the convention steering committee, please contact me through the area website or call.

GV -Libette: The Grapevine theme for Panel 61 is "The Grapevine flourishes in Hawaii". How many of you here have a Grapevine subscription? Great, about half. If you are interested in helping fulfill this theme please sign up to be a Grapevine Standing Committee Member, a list will be passed around. Another way to help is to encourage your home groups to have a Grapevine Representative to inform and encourage members to get subscriptions to the Grapevine. GVRs can find information at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org). Grapevine subscriptions are available here through me all weekend as well as online. The Grapevine is available in print, digital format, audio and the archives are available as well. I will be here a little while after the assembly with a computer if you are interested in viewing or listening to the various formats.

Also, you are encouraged to gift a subscription, if you already have one and are interested in purchasing one for an institution, hospital, or rehab facility, we will be compiling a list of these types of facilities that need Grapevine subscriptions. If you have any suggestions for locations needing a subscription please include it in the form that will be passed around or let me know of any ideas or email me at [grapevine@area17aa.org](mailto:grapevine@area17aa.org). I am so glad to announce that we have 8 new subscriptions of the Grapevine from Assembly attendees this weekend. Thank you! 6 were print subscriptions and 2 were in digital format.

PI - Chris S-C: Aloha, my name is Chris and I am an alcoholic. It was a total honor to be asked to chair the Public Information for Area 17 on Panel 61. I am jazzed about learning more about how to carry our message by informing the public that Alcoholics Anonymous is here for the still suffering alcoholic. As some of you know already that there has been no current PI Chair for Panel 59, for the last two assemblies. So I will make it a point to talk to the new DCM's and find out if they have PI chairs in their districts in an attempt to see what is going on with PI work. On East Hawaii there is one person that is doing PI work and another person in Puna that wants to get involved, so I will be contacting them next week and setting a time for when we can get together for a discussion of the work that needs to be done. Meanwhile, In order to serve effectively, I know how important it is for me to understand and get a grasp on what the responsibilities of the Chair for the Public Information. It was suggested to me by our Area Chair that I review the Panel 59 minutes and the reports of the PI chairs and talk to Sue B. who was the PI chair for Panel 57. First of all, I took a look at the Orientation Assembly minutes and found out who the general public is and who it is not. It is not the Professionals or Treatment Center counselors that work with the alcoholic, Public Information is not making AA available to doctors or nurse who care for alcoholics in hospitals. The general public is the people who ride on buses and read Public Service Announcements (PSA's) such as "If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, it is our business, with the local Central Office phone number attached. Or perhaps the still suffering

alcoholic who listens to the radio hear that AA is available in their communities. In addition, the general public also consists of people who attend health fairs, or check out our literature from the library.

I also have reviewed the PI Workbook on aa.org on how to send guide letters to high schools, offering A.A. literature and/or a presentation on A.A.—what we do and what we do not do. Plus other letters that relate to informing the public that AA is there for those who want to obtain sobriety. In love and service.

Website - Hugh: Goal is to give the fellowship a proper website so everyone can have access to Area 17 service information.

Break at 2:15

Area Secretary/Area Treasurer Reports:

Secretary - Coleen: Aloha everyone. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to review the minutes from the Elections Assembly. If you would like to make a correction, please come to the mic.

Motion to approve by Jim seconded by Rochelle . Discussion - none. Minutes approved.

Treasurer -

Aloha Panel 61 trusted servants,

As of January 15, 2011 Hawaii Area funds are as follows:

Operating Funds	\$13,760.75
Prudent Reserve	\$5,000.00
Reserve for Computer Equipment	\$750.00
<u>Reserve for International Convention</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total cash in bank	\$19,760.75

As of December 31, 2010:

Total Contributions and Income	\$23,006.75
Total Expenditures	<u>\$34,333.69</u>
Net Revenues	- \$11,326.94

Hawaii Area 17 has been a part of the General Service Structure since the 1970's. When we stop to think about it, year after year, thousands of AA members and hundreds of groups contribute their time and money. Their efforts have made it possible for Alcoholics Anonymous to be here for us, and for others. Their contributions have also made it possible for us to be here and serve Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide.

Please thank your groups for contributing to the Hawaii Area 17 throughout the years, and welcome to Panel 61!

Coleen A., Area Treasurer, Panel 59

[treasurer@area17aa.org](mailto:treasurer@area17aa.org)

· Motion to approve by Cathy, seconded by Lissa. Discussion:

Linda - Reserve for International Convention, increased from \$250 in 2010 to \$350 in 2011. Motion passed.

#### Committees:

Cheryl - Re GSR's assigned a committee drawn from the hat. This is similar to GSO's procedure. GSO assigns the delegates to committees, the delegates don't pick the committee they are on. Instead of assigning you to a committee, you drew a card out of the hat/ HP's will. You can make a decision to go to another committee if you choose. Your name will be sent to GSO, and you will receive information that GSO has on that particular committee. You are also the liaison for that committee for your district.

#### Ask it basket

What's most important to take back? GSRs take back enthusiasm.

Meeting is a gathering of alcoholics. Groups are registered with GSO, have a group number, and are connected with the service structure. Groups can meet more than once a week.

Suggestion to motivate members to be of service - this is an ongoing concern. reminder phone calls, serve snacks, be enthusiastic, tell how service has enhanced your life.

Groups that don't show up to district meetings - caravan, go out and get in touch with those folks, let them know what the area does, 15-20 second blurb about your service during meeting announcements, portray it in a positive light. Attraction not promotion - if you are enthusiastic, you will attract people. If you're happy, that will show.

Is it breaking tradition to announcement by anything other than an alcoholic? Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. NA fellowship said that they ask their membership to identify themselves as addicts. Over the years, newcomers say both. Old timers pull them aside and ask them to ID as alcoholic. Some people say, "a drug is a drug is a drug." There is some truth in that, diabetic takes insulin, heart attack take another drug. But, try and switch drugs - it doesn't work.

Quorum is the amount of people you need to have in the room to conduct business. - 50% +1. If not enough voting members are present, you can't conduct business. They want to insure, at the end of the day, need a quorum to decide for the area.

Announcing your self as anything other than an alcoholic - help them feel welcome so

they stay long enough to figure out if they need AA. I'd rather have someone in here that doesn't belong, that no drive someone away because they did not feel welcome here.

What to take back: Cheryl: Met the Pacific Region Trustee and learned about the General Service structure - upside down triangle - let them know that they, as AA members, are at the very top of the triangle. Number of people we answer to increases the further we move down the triangle.

GSO is looking for stories for three pamphlets

Personal stories which focus on spirituality including stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in AA. The stories will reflect a wide range of spiritual experience.

Personal stories to humanize the impact of the 7th Tradition monies.

Personal stories on recent experiences from members on active duty or veterans of the Armed Services.

Grapevine subscriptions - [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org), contact Libette, our GV chair with questions at [grapevine@area17aa.org](mailto:grapevine@area17aa.org).

PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) - March 4- 6 @ Ala Moana hotel. Registration and info available at [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org). Volunteers needed. PRAASA only comes to Hawaii once every ten years (or more) so this is a great opportunity to attend at minimal cost.

Your experience here - convey it with enthusiasm and excitement - hopefully you felt that way. Do a quick blurb when you share with 15 seconds about your weekend. You can give a full report at your home group business meeting. You might consider making a copy of that and posting it on your home group bulletin board, or clipboard.

Thank you very much from Rod, Trustee

Adjourn at 3:35 PM Motion by David, seconded by David. Motion passed.  
Closed with "I am Responsible" pledge.