



# MYNAH BIRD

## HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

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Agnostics  
 Alcoholics  
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 Bill Wilson  
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 Seventy five  
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 Unity

***From our delegate....***

The following is a report our Delegate presented at the Remote Communities Workshop held in conjunction with the General Service Conference.

**Remote Communities – Geography**

In Area 17, which includes the entire State of Hawaii, we have 14 Districts spread out over 8 islands. Although Hawaii covers a relatively small area geographically, we are separated by ocean. Additionally, we are a Remote Community in the sense that our closest neighboring Area is across the Pacific Ocean, a 5 hour plane ride away.

When traveling for Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings, more often than not it will involve a plane ride. The week right before the GSC, I booked 5 inter-island flights for my report backs over the summer.

In my 10 years of General Service, I have seen airfare as a topic of loving discussions over and over again on the Assembly floor. A large percentage of our annual Area budget covers air travel for our 7 Area officers and 12 Standing Committee Chairs. There have been motions to re-structure our Area, giving each Island the Standing Committee responsibilities that are now in the Area structure. There have been groups who have stopped contributing to the Area due to the fact that they disagreed with the travel expense. However, the Group Conscience of Area 17 Hawaii concludes again and again that this is a very insignificant price to pay for Unity in our Area.

On the island of Maui, in No Kai Oi District 5 there is a remote community called Hana. Wikipedia calls Hana one of the most isolated communities in the state, and it is only reached by a 52 mile drive on a windy, narrow road called "the road to Hana". Hana has two meetings per week, however many members from No Ka Oi district caravan into Hana on the last Sunday of the month for a potluck and meeting.

Over on the west side of Maui is our Tri-Island District, which includes the islands of Molokai and Lana'i. Molokai now has 6 meetings per week, but for years had only 3. Lana'i has 4 meetings per week. For the last few years, members from Maui have held an event called 'The Crossing' in which members from other islands (primarily Maui) take the ferry or fly over to Lana'i or Molokai (alternating) for a weekend of camping, meetings and fellowship. Says one DCM who attended a crossing to Lana'i: "The AA members on Lana'i were so grateful to have us there and to feel the unity among other alcoholics. Listening to their shares, I was reminded of the early days of our fellowship when it was Bill and Bob. They really had to hang together or die alone." This event has become less frequent, in part because tragically the Tri-Island District is currently dim. However in May, HICYPAA (Hawaii Island Conference of Young People in AA) is hosting a Crossing and the Kihei District is working on hosting one in August.

I'll end with a portion of Step Twelve from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous: "Life will take on a new meaning. To watch people recover; to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends – this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives."

**Elizabeth Martin**  
**Delegate**  
**Area 17 Panel 59**



Yes, all of us AAs are living our second lives because of the Creator's direct intervention thru Bill and Bob. And yes, seventy-five years is a long time for any alcoholic. Since June 10, 1935, the day that Bob got sober

and stayed sober, we have been divinely blessed to carry the simple solution for the suffering alcoholic. Here is another take on carrying that message...

LIVING SERMON

I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one should walk with me, than merely show the way.  
I can soon learn how to do it, if you'll let me see it done;  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.

All the lectures you deliver, may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather learn my lesson by observing what you do.  
Though I may not understand you, and the fine advice you give,  
There is no misunderstanding how you act and live.

Anonymous

So, as we trudge the road of happy destiny, practice the AA principles in all your affairs, knowing that we are Divinely blessed to carry this message to the suffering alcoholic.

**Paul K**  
**DCM West Hawaii District 8**  
**Aloha Mana**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



**We are not a glum lot!**

When I finally decided to do something about my drinking and go to AA at age 22, I had already decided that I would rather be sober than have fun. Although I was sad that I would have to give up having fun, it somehow seemed worth it to me if I could stay sober. Suffice it to say, I was more than surprised to discover how much fun there was to be had in recovery. In fact, hanging out with other AAs and engaging in activities other than drinking proved to be even more fun than my previously cherished escapades. I did not miss the hangovers or the feeling of remorse and regret if I happened to remember what I did the night before when I felt like I was really living life. I wasn't anesthetized, attempting to blot out any feelings of pain or discomfort in my life. Rather, I was seeking the experience of a full life – a life that included pain and discomfort but also immense amounts of peace and happiness. I absolutely insist on enjoying life!

*We have been dealing with alcohol in its worst aspect. But we aren't a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life. We try not to indulge in cynicism over the state of the nations, nor do we carry the world's troubles on our shoulders. When we see a man sinking into the mire that is alcoholism, we give him first aid and place what we have at his disposal. For his sake, we do recount and almost relive the horrors of our past. But those of us who have tried to shoulder the entire burden and troubles of others find we are soon overcome by them.*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th edition, page 132*

**Suzy H**  
**GSR, Bad Brains**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



**Happy Birthday AA!**

AA's birthday is just 3 days before my AA anniversary. I always get a little squirrely around my birthday because I was not at my best just before I entered a treatment center on June 12, 1996. I ended up there after my family and friends intervened – 7 days after my son died as a result of an accident. They were concerned that suicide would seem like the only option when I was drunk and alone. And they were right. It is only because of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that I have been able to celebrate 13 more belly button birthdays since then. Just as I am grateful to my family and friends who deposited me in a treatment center, I am so very grateful to AA for the life I have. I didn't get involved in AA in my first 3+ years of sobriety. I was consumed by shame, embarrassment and fear that the whole world would find out I am an alcoholic if I saw someone I knew at a meeting. Of course, since it was all about me at the time, I didn't think about the fact that they wouldn't have been there if they weren't also an alcoholic. I retired and moved to Hawaii and embraced the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous here.

Since getting into General Service, I have learned more and more about the history of AA and the early days. I am so grateful and even more committed to do what I can to insure AA is here for generations to come. Mahalo mucho to AA!!

**Cheryl N  
Mynah Bird Chair  
Area 17, Panel 59**



One of the topics discussed at the General Service conference was "The Grapevine." Subscriptions have fallen off and do not cover the costs of publishing & distributing. Input is being sought from the Fellowship.

The A.A. Grapevine belongs to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it is the Fellowship that must decide if the Grapevine will be here for the alcoholic "who still stumbles in the darkness," as Bernard Smith said in explaining why we need a Conference. Bill W. expressed his hope for the A.A. Grapevine in a June 1944 article: "...May its rays of hope and experience ever fall upon the current of our A.A. life and one day illumine every dark corner of this alcoholic world." This statement suggests that what we should strive for today and what should provide fuel for every idea that is proposed for A.A. Grapevine, Inc., is how it can be used to carry the A.A. message better to alcoholics in and outside the rooms of A.A., directly or indirectly.

If the Fellowship wants the Grapevine and La Viña to be there for today's and tomorrow's alcoholic – many of whom don't know that A.A. has a magazine – the service structure and subscribers need to commit to making the magazines an integral part of the program and, if the magazines continue to prove useful, an integral part of their Twelfth Step work. Only the Fellowship can decide that, which leads to the following important questions contained in this survey. Please complete the survey and send it to the address listed. Mahalo for your help

**HANA CARAVAN 2010**

Last Sunday of every month

June 27

September 26

December 26

July 25

October 31

August 29

November 28

Wananalua Church

Potluck Dinner 4:30 PM

AA Meeting 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions??? Contact [dcm5@area17aa.org](mailto:dcm5@area17aa.org)

**GRAPEVINE SURVEY**

*Inspired by the 2010 Grapevine Conference Committee*

1) What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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2) How do you use the Grapevine magazine? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine? \_\_\_\_\_

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4) What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be? \_\_\_\_\_

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5) Please answer one of the following questions about the Grapevine magazine:

a) If you currently have a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg, e-mail) in addition to the print version, will you opt out of the print version? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

OR

b) If you currently do not have a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg, e-mail) in addition to the print version, will you begin subscribing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

--If Yes, and the digital and print are a bundled subscription, would you opt out of the print version? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

6) Important questions about you:

- a) How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) How long have you been sober? \_\_\_\_\_ years
- c) Are you a GSR? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
- d) What district are you in (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

**The Hawaii Area Newsletter ~ Hawai'i Kaua'i Lana'i Maui Moloka'i O'ahu ~ June 2010 Volume 2 No. 4**

7) Do you currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

8) If you do not currently subscribe, have you previously? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ ..... If yes:

a) How long ago? \_\_\_\_\_ years

b) Why did you discontinue your subscription? (check all that apply)

- Content
- Price increase
- No longer read magazines
- No longer use or benefit from
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9) If you do not currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine, what would need to change for you to subscribe?

- Content
- Format (digital)
- Price reduction (willing to sacrifice color, pages)
- Nothing, will not subscribe
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

10) If you checked "content" as a reason you do not subscribe or as an area you would like to see change, please elaborate...what specific changes would you like to see?: \_\_\_\_\_

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11) Do you think it is important for the Grapevine Magazine to continue?: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

12) In reference to pricing: (the Grapevine currently operates in a deficit, with shortfalls being covered by General Service Board approved withdrawals from the Reserve Fund).

a) Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should be priced so that the Grapevine is self-supporting? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

b) Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should remain priced lower than the cost of production, and that the Grapevine Board and General Service Board should generate plans to subsidize operations to bring to the fellowship for consideration?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ DON'T KNOW \_\_\_\_\_

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Responses are to be submitted to your delegate no later than November 1, 2010. These will be compiled and forwarded to the AA vine Corporate Board by year end, and will be included as background material for the 2011 Conference Committee on the A.A. C vine.

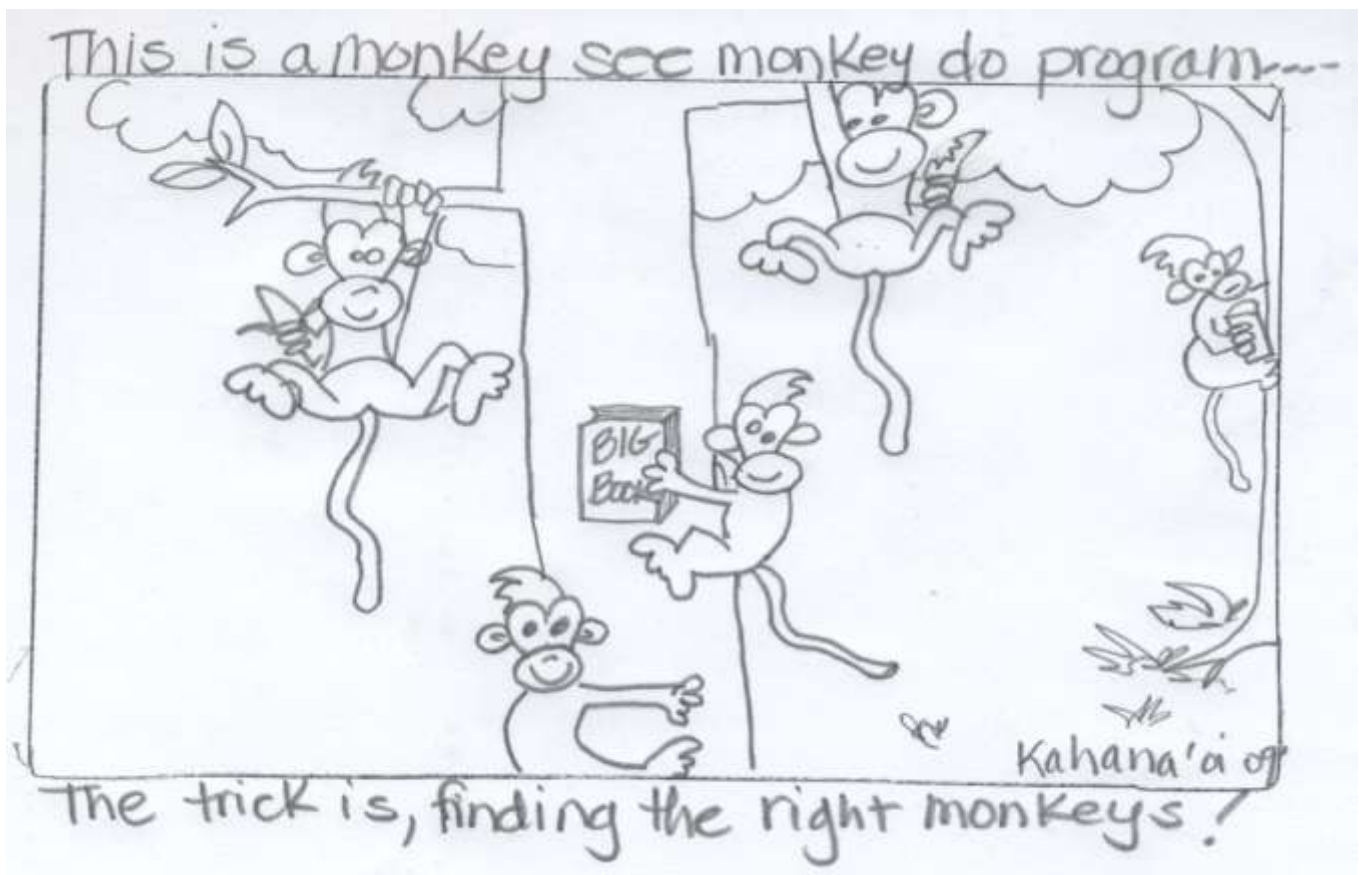
**Please mail to:**

Hawaii Area Committee #2107  
575 Cooke St. Suite A  
Honolulu, HI 86913

### Did you know? Big Book Facts and Trivia

- The Original cost of a Big Book in 1939 was \$3.50. That is over \$40.00 in today's dollars as adjusted for inflation.
- The First Edition was published by Works Publishing, a company started by Bill W. and Hank P. solely for the publication of the Big Book.
- Ann Smith suggested the name "Works Publishing" from the line in the New Testament "Faith Without Works is Dead."
- The One Millionth Big Book was given to President Richard M. Nixon in a White House ceremony in 1973.
- It took 16 years to sell the first 300,000 printed copied of the Big Book, the whole run of the First Edition.
- There are over 20,000,000 copies of the Big Book in print.
- Over One Million copies of the Big Book are sold yearly.
- Chapter 8, To Wives was written entirely by Bill W., much to the disapproval of Lois.
- Loans from friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. helped fund the early printing of the Big Book.
- The first paperback edition of the Big Book was published in 1986.
- Bill W. and Dr. Bob each received 10% of all the Big Book sales as royalties.
- Early considered titles included One Hundred Men, The Empty Glass, and The Way Out.
- The total distribution of the 1st Edition of the AA Big Book was approximately 300,426 copies.
- The distribution of the Second Edition Big Book was approximately 1,090,416 copies.
- The distribution of the Third Edition Big Book was approximately 19,843,221 copies.

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# Heard in a Meeting...

The highest you can get in AA is sober. If you get any higher, you have to start over."

My drug of choice was MORE!!!

You're done when you stop digging.

Without my higher power, I wouldn't have a prayer.

Forgiveness is the conclusion of resentments.

Through working the steps, I received a quiet heart and peace of mind and am walking in the sunlight of the spirit.

Surprise me, God.



Lead me where you need me, God.

I finally realized I had to lose to win.

Practice, practice, practice – and not necessarily in that order.

How it Works----Do not be discouraged. No one has been able maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles. We are not *Stains*.

It never gets to the point where they call it "alcohol-wasm."

## HOW TO FIND A SPONSOR

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe;

I need a sponsor for I am ready to go.

Manny, Moe or Jack?

I guess Moe, I've had too Manny, and I don't know Jack.



### The Twelve Qualities of Sponsorship

- I will not help you stay and wallow in limbo.
- I will help you to grow, to become more productive, by your definition.
- I will help you become more autonomous, more loving of yourself, more excited, less sensitive, more free to become the authority for your own living.
- I cannot give you dreams or "fix you up" simply because I cannot.
- I cannot give you growth, or grow for you. You must grow for yourself by facing reality, grim as it may be at times.
- I cannot take away your loneliness or your pain.
- I cannot sense your world for you, evaluate your goals for you, and tell you what is best for your work; because you have your own world in which you must live.
- I cannot convince you of the necessity to make the vital decision of choosing the frightening uncertainty of growing over the safe misery of remaining static.
- I want to be with you and know you as a rich and growing friend; yet I cannot get close to you when you choose not to grow.
- When I begin to care for you out of pity or when I begin to lose faith in you, then I am inhibiting both for you and for me.
- You must know and understand my help is conditional. I will be with you and "hang in there" with you so long as I continue to get even the slightest hint that you are still trying to grow.
- If you can accept this, then perhaps we can help each other to become what God meant us to be, mature adults, leaving childishness forever to the little children of the world.

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 \* **Meeting Change for One Step Up** \*  
 \* After 23 years at St. Ann's Church, the One \*  
 \* Step Up meeting is moving location & time. \*  
 \* When? Starting Sunday, June 20 \*  
 \* Where? Windward United Church of Christ \*  
 \* 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kailua, HI 96734 \*  
 \* 7:00 – 8:00 PM \*  
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4th Annual Aloha Mana Roundup  
 September 17 - 19, 2010  
 Spencer Beach Park  
 Registration is \$30 & covers meeting,  
 fellowship, camping, all meals Saturday  
 and Sunday leftovers breakfast.  
 Questions? Contact Paul K  
 dcm8@area17aa.org

**Delegate Report Back Schedule**

Live on Oahu and weren't able to make it to your District's Report Back? There's still a chance. Here's the schedule for the remaining Report Backs.

Oahu – Windward – 6/24  
 Oahu – Diamond Head, Honolulu, & Waikiki – 7/24  
 Oahu – Leeward – 8/5

*"Life will take on new meaning."*

## 2010 Kauai Round Up

**JUNE 25, 26, and 27**



### Kahili Mountain Park

*"The Kauai Roundup Committee's mission is: To foster fellowship, unity and recovery for the AA community by providing an entertaining and relaxing annual weekend retreat."*

**Activities:** Hiking, entertainment, workshop, bonfire meetings and full moon meeting on Saturday.

**Prices:** \$88. **Advanced registration before** (June 7, 2010)

\$98. **Late registration after** (June 7, 2010)

Includes 2 nights stay, 5 meals, and fun.

Check in time on Friday 2:00 pm; check out 10:00 am Sunday.

**This is an event for adults to celebrate sobriety.**

**No children, no pets. Mahalo.**

For more information email: [Kauairu2010@yahoo.com](mailto:Kauairu2010@yahoo.com)