



# MYNAH BIRD

## HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

T E Z X O T S R E C I F F O E M Y J D  
 M A Y K A S T A N D I N G B P V E E W  
 Y R E G I S T R A R O H D F O A T X T  
 S H S R W N R I S I I P G T Q S M G I  
 A J T Z C G W R J U R Y I X U N K R F  
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 E T A G E L E D B I D K F Y L H C O W  
 Z S S S E N G N I L L I W M I G C C A

Alternate  
 Ballot  
 Chair  
 Conscious  
 Contact  
 Delegate  
 Election

Gratitude  
 Legacy  
 Meditation  
 Officers  
 Prayer  
 Registrar  
 Secretary

Servants  
 Standing  
 Third  
 Treasurer  
 Trusted  
 Voting  
 Willingness

***From Our Delegate...***

Aloha all, and welcome to the Election Assembly!

This weekend we will be electing our Panel 61 Area Officers through the spiritual process we have for selecting our incoming leaders known as the Third Legacy. These past 2 years have been quite a journey, and I want to thank you all for the spiritual lessons I have been given as the result of trusting God, cleaning house and helping others. It has been a joy serving with such an incredible bunch of AAs as you. As I move into the role as a past delegate, I would hope that you folks will utilize me as a resource in any way needed. The AA Service Manual, on page S46 says *"AA has in past delegates a wealth of experience, which is sometimes used and sometimes not. The AA practice of rotation prevents delegates from succeeding themselves or from returning later as delegates, but a role for past delegate is gradually emerging that involves them in area activities and gives the area the benefit of their experience with worldwide AA, but leaves area committees and new delegates free to run their own show."*

As we conduct our business today and elect our leaders tomorrow, let us go forward in the spirit of mutual trust, unity and love for Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the August 1957 AAGV, Paul B. then Delegate from Oregon answered the question How can we become an informed "group conscience"?

1. By being objective in our thinking.
2. By exercising our rights as AAs and participating in group affairs.
3. By insisting on the principle of rotation of members of our steering committees and delegates in our inter-group, state and national activities.
4. By reading our publications and group directories.  
By truly, in all our AA activities, placing *principles before personalities*.

**PRAASA 2011:**

As everyone knows by now, Hawaii Area is hosting PRAASA 2011 on the island of Oahu at the Ala Moana Hotel March 4-6, 2011. I invite all of you to attend, and we still need volunteers to be in service during the weekend. Please visit [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org) for more details. Additionally, I would like to remind you that we do have a group discount arrangement with Hawaiian Airlines.

**Current AA News:**

We have been requested to gather suggestions for the Theme, Presentations and Workshop Topics for the 62nd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference in 2012. I sent out an email in back in August, and so far have received one reply. I will be collecting these until 12/1/2010, and these can be emailed in to me.

Thank you for all who took the time to complete a Grapevine Survey. We collected a over 200 responses, which have been forwarded on to the data compilation team. The results will be forwarded to the AAGV Board, and the Conference Committee on Grapevine. There were a total of 8,021 surveys from 60+ Areas. It is an amazing amount of direct feedback from the fellowship.

Speaking of the AAGV, we have a new Executive Editor/Publisher of the GV: Ami Brophy. As I previously reported, Robin Bromley would be moving on as soon as a replacement was found.

There is a current opening for a Non trustee Appointed Member for the Trustees' Committee on Literature. Please reference my email of October 10, 2010 if you or anyone you know would like to submit your resume. The deadline is 12/15/10. I am happy to report that our immediate past Delegate, Vernon has submitted his resume.

There is a small inventory of the 2010 International Convention Souvenir book "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age" available for \$7.00 from GSO. Additionally, the new young people's video "Animation" will be available for purchase the first week of December.

Beginning with the January/February 2011 issue, the LaVina will be published with 68 pages perfect binding following the recommendations made at the 60<sup>th</sup> GSC.

Since September 2000, when I attended my very first Area Assembly I have been absolutely in love with General Service. I have grown up in service and sobriety in Assemblies and Area Committee meetings with you all. There is nothing that I won't do for Alcoholics Anonymous. As a direct result of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts I have come from a life of darkness and despair to one of filled with love, light and laughter. I truly thank you.

**Of Love & Service Always,  
Elizabeth M.  
Delegate  
Hawaii Area 17, Panel 59**



### **2010 Delegate Year End Summary**

January 2010

- Inventory Assembly on Oahu
- Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu  
Board Weekend in Rye, NY

February 2010

- Area Committee Meeting on Oahu  
Distributed Agenda items to Districts

March 2010

- Attended PRAASA in Los Angeles, CA
- PRAASA Delegates Advisory Board
- Inform the Delegate Assembly on Big Island  
Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu

April 2010

- Inform the Delegate Assembly on Oahu
- Diamond head district PRAASA report back
- Attended the General Service Conference in Rye, NY  
Served as Delegate Chair Conference Committee on International Conventions / Regional Forums

May 2010

- Maui Report Back
- Molokai Crossing – report back
- Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu  
Kauai Report back

June 2010

- Central North Shore / Waianae districts report back
- Kona report back
- East Hawaii / Puna districts report back
- Windward district report back
- Area Committee Meeting on Maui  
International Convention in San Antonio, TX. Served as the coordinator for the Pacific Regional Hospitality Suite, attended the Delegates reunion

July 2010

- Diamond Head / Waikiki / Honolulu districts report back  
Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu

August 2010

- Leeward district report back
- Missed the Assembly due to my Mother being very ill, was on mainland  
Pacific regional Forum, met with PRAASA Delegates Advisory Board

September 2010

- Facilitated a group inventory on Oahu  
Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu

October 2010

Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu

November 2010

- Hawaii Annual Convention, small talk on Friday night
- Attended PRAASA '11 Committee Meeting on Oahu  
Election Assembly in Puna

December 2010

Work closely with incoming delegate to pass on information and communication

In addition, throughout the year:

- I fielded and replied to all sorts of emails and calls from people in and out of Area 17 regarding tradition breaks; issues in districts and groups and matters concerning AA as a whole
- I held ongoing communications via email with GSO staff, Trustees and other Area Delegates on various matters concerning AA as a whole
- Was involved with ongoing communication with the PRAASA Delegates Advisory Board on matters concerning PRAASA
- Read and took appropriate action on a countless amount of mail communication from GSO
- Attended AA meetings, sponsored women in the program, worked with my step and service sponsors, attended weekly literature readings at my sponsors house, and continued working on enlarging my conscious contact with my Higher Power

**Elizabeth M.  
Delegate  
Area17, Panel 59**



**Alternate Delegate 2010 Year-End Reort**

It's hard to believe that Panel 59 is near its final assembly. It has been an incredible part of my journey to share the last two years with each of you who has served on Panel 59. I want to thank every one of you who helped me to more fully understand A.A. principles and the spiritual purpose of principles before personalities.


In keeping with my responsibilities, I have made myself available to new GSRs and DCMs by conducting orientation sessions as needed and by attending district meetings as requested. In addition, our service materials, especially the *Hawaii Area Structures and Guidelines* and the *G.S.R. Handbook*, for Area 17 have been updated as required and posted to our Website so that all have access to the latest and greatest info! This year, I developed a checklist for new GSRs that has been well received. I have also served as a voting member of the Hawaii Annual Convention Steering Committee and have attended the monthly Steering Committee meetings. Being on the Steering Committee has been a practical and spiritual experience. It has been exciting to be part of this event at the new venue, Hilton Hawaiian Village. I am pleased to have been a small part of such a successful event. This year, members

around the state have been discussing a proposal to no longer have the Alternate Chair and Alternate Delegate serve on the Convention Steering Committee. Regardless of the outcome of that discussion and possible vote at the November 2010 Elections Assembly, I am confident that the Annual Hawaii Convention will continue to fulfill its purpose in Hawaii A.A.

Other activities of the year include attending monthly meetings of the Oahu Intergroup at which I present reports on Area 17's purpose, functions, and activities for our general service structure. According to the Oahu Intergroup by-laws, both the Area Chair and the Area Delegate are invited to be voting members of the Oahu Intergroup. However, time restraints and other responsibilities have precluded the Delegate's presence at the meetings, which are held close to my home.

I am extremely grateful to our Delegate for keeping me well informed about her duties and for bringing the Service Manual and the Twelve Concepts for World Service to life for me. I was more than happy to help out by doing the data entry for the 200 plus Grapevine surveys that were filled out by Hawaii members and visitors. I also was pleased to fill in for

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# PRAASA 2011

## March 4 – 6, 2011

### Honolulu, HI

Ala Moana Hotel  
(Honolulu, HI)

Questions?? Go to [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org)  
Click on link to  
PRAASA 2011 Information



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our Delegate when a family emergency prevented her attendance at the August Budget Assembly.

Serving as Alternate Delegate for Area 17, Panel 59 has been an honor and a privilege. Many of the friendships I have made over the last two years will last a lifetime. Mahalo for making me one of your trusted servants.

**Happy New Year!**  
**Linda McD,**  
**Alternate Delegate**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



### **Mynah Bird – The Year in Review**

2010 was a busy year for the Mynah Bird. Some of the highlights are:

Published seven Mynah Bird issues and distributed them to the Fellowship via email, printed copies at each Assembly or Committee meeting, and on the Area Website.

Attended all four Area Assemblies and two Committee meetings.

- January - Inventory Assembly – Waianae
- March – Inform the Delegate Assembly – West Hawaii
- June – Committee Meeting – Kihei
- August – Budget Assembly – Hilo
- October Committee Meeting – Central North Shore
- November - Election Assembly – Puna

Prepared committee reports for all Assemblies and Committee meetings.

Met with Mynah Bird Committee members at Assemblies and brain stormed ideas for subjects, how to improve the Mynah Bird, and how to get more participation.

Attended District and Intergroup meetings in West Hawaii to pass on information and encourage participation.

Attended Delegate Report Back and Founders' Day in West Hawaii.

Participated in Area Committee Chair skit, "You're An Alcoholic, Charlie Brown." at June Committee meeting on Maui and in August at Budget Assembly. Participated in skit, "There are no Emergencies in AA" at Election Assembly in Puna.

Learned about online anonymity and worked with Webmaster to insure no breaks in anonymity in the Mynah Bird version on our Area website.

Created seven word search puzzles.

Communicated via email with past delegates, Area officers, Standing Committee chairs, DCMs, Intergroup Chairs, GSRs, other members in the fellowship to encourage participation in the Mynah Bird. Followed up with reminders about the upcoming Mynah Bird deadlines. Personally requested articles from Standing Committee chairs, DCMS and many others at Assemblies, Committee meetings, before and after meetings etc.....

Solicited info on upcoming activities to be published in Mynah Bird.

Listened really carefully at meetings for potential contributions to "Heard in a Meeting."

In addition to all of the above, I experienced another blessed year in sobriety, surrounded by the fellowship of AA as a result of being active in General Service. I learned more about love and tolerance and developed more patience both with myself and others. And I tried to keep in mind that my primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. As a result, I often found myself walking in the sunlight of the spirit and being so very grateful for my life – one that has exceeded even my wildest dreams. And for that, I thank all of you. Mahalo mucho!!!

**Cheryl N.**  
**Mynah Bird chair**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



**Remember**  
**Mail Area Contributions to:**  
**Hawaii Area Committee # 2107**  
**575 Cooke Street Suite A**  
**Honolulu, HI 96813**

## Reflections of my DCM Experience

Being DCM for Central North Shore District #9 has been a rewarding, spiritual, growth experience for me. I am truly grateful that I had this service position for the last two years. Fear and apprehension at the beginning of the panel were gradually replaced by love and gratitude today.

What have I learned during my time as DCM? What would I have done differently? There were many lessons and in hindsight, many things that I would have done differently. They include:

- Practicing better time management, (as I write this on the Mynah Bird article due date.)
- Delegation is important for my sanity and it helps others feel a part of the process.
- The district agenda is *not* my agenda.
- Sitting with GSRs, answering their questions, and helping them to feel welcome and a part of the process is an important part of my duties.
- There is always more work to be done.

What were the highlights of my term? Every single Assembly, Committee Meeting, and district meeting had highlights or a highlight for me, but in order to summarize, some of my highlights include:

- The Traditions Workshop hosted by District 9
- My first PRAASA in Los Angeles
- Watching our District's participation grow, especially seeing the Haleiwa meetings thriving within the District.
- Our DCM roundtables
- Implementing District 9 Structures and Guidelines.
- Forming dear, dear, friendships with others.
- Elizabeth sharing at PRAASA during the *Ask it Basket* forum
- Our recent district election meeting with thirteen people attending

I have heard it said my times within area service, "Once you figure out all your service position entails, your term is over." Is this true? For me, it is partially true. Does it have to be? I don't believe so. At our most recent DCM roundtable, we discussed whether we had a DCM orientation at the Orientation assembly. After discussion, I believe our orientation consisted of us, as brand new DCMs, having a

roundtable discussion, with no real guidance. In the perfect service world in my head, I would like to see a thorough DCM Orientation, complete with two or three facilitators. The format could include the reading of each line of the duties of the DCM from the Service Manual, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Another topic could be a discussion of problems that previous DCMs have encountered, along with their solutions. Hopefully, that would better prepare incoming DCMs for their exciting new roles in service.

**Sheri B,  
DCM # 9, Central North Shore  
Area 17, Panel 59**



## I Don't Care If I Break My Anonymity!

The online A.A. Grapevine ([www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)) recently asked the following question in its ongoing survey feature:

Last month's issue of Grapevine had several articles on protecting our anonymity. When using social networking websites how do you maintain anonymity?

When I came across the survey it was still open and running so naturally enough I selected my answer from the four choices offered and was taken to the results section of the poll.

At the time of this writing there were 1195 respondents and no doubt there will be more to come so the results I saw are far from the last word on the subject, but I have to admit I was taken a bit aback by percentage of respondents choosing the fourth answer, "I don't care if I break my anonymity."

Here are the results on the day I took the survey:

- I don't mention AA at all online. 746 votes (62.43%)
- I might discuss AA or sobriety, but I never reveal I'm a member. 138 votes (11.55%)
- I use separate accounts so that I can maintain anonymity while talking about AA recovery. 60 votes (5.02%)
- **I don't care if I break my anonymity. 251 votes (21%)**

Of the 1195 responses a full 21% of us don't care if we break our anonymity on social networking sites!

I'll admit that I was a bit surprised. I could easily understand a high percentage responding yes to the question they didn't ask, "Have you ever broken your anonymity online, even accidentally?" To be honest it's possible I've done that. It's easy enough to do and not always easy to correct, but it's certainly understandable.

But to have 21% of us, assuming those figures actually represent our Fellowship, suggest that they simply don't care is disturbing, at least to me. At this point I should note this is an unscientific survey and thus its results can't really be applied to our Fellowship as a whole. Still it does show that a portion of our members have differing view of what the meaning of anonymity is, especially as it applies to online activities.

For those of you wondering where I fall on this issue I'll fess up. I do care if I break my own anonymity and I chose answer #1, "I don't mention AA at all online." Keep in mind this applies only to social net-

working sites. I do discuss A.A. via email with other members both socially and in the course of my service work.

Where do we go with this? It's hard to say. Over time I suspect the Fellowship will come to some accord with social networking online and anonymity, but for now I think it's important that we continue to discuss this issue with those we sponsor (as well as our own sponsors), our home groups, and at the service functions we attend. People are going to do what they are going to do and I have to remember that I'm not in charge of how people treat our Traditions. Still I would like to be sure that I've done my part to help educate folks so that when they say, "I don't care if I break my anonymity," they understand what that means. In social networking settings you may be fine with breaking your own anonymity, but remember, by doing so you may also be breaking the anonymity of another who isn't as well informed as you.

**Bob H.**  
**Webmaster**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



## Big Island Bash

### **"I Can't.....We Can"**

The 23rd Annual Big Island Bash will be held:

At the magnificent Sheraton Keauhou Bay  
Resort and Spa on the beautiful Kona Coast

April 15, 16, and 17, 2011

**Kelly M. - Collingswood, NJ**

**Karl M. - Covina, CA**

**Robbie W. - Ocean City, NJ**

**Larcine G. - Hawthorne, CA**

[www.bigislandbash.com](http://www.bigislandbash.com)

Questions? [april15bash@gmail.com](mailto:april15bash@gmail.com)



**Service-The Third Legacy**

Who is more unpopular than the old-time Area 17 A.A. member, full of answers, who wants to guide an A.A. Group without being fully aware of the Traditions and Area Suggested Guidelines?

Tradition Nine: A.A. as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Traditions Checklist:

- Do I still try to boss things in A.A.?
  - Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
  - Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the A.A.
  - Program...even if no one makes me do so...with a sense of personal responsibility?
  - Do I exercise patience and humility in any A. A. job I take?
  - Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any A.A. Job?
  - Why doesn't every A.A. Group need a constitution and bylaws?
  - Have I learned to step out of an A.A. Job gracefully...and profit thereby...when the time comes?
  - What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?
- (Reprinted with permission of the AA Grapevine Inc.)

So, what's the point?

The point is: A.A. is made up of circles of people who care to get things done...to help alcoholics, without bosses or rules. A.A. Groups set up Committees directly responsible to the Group for supplying services. Each Group needs to make its voice heard on all policies which guide service committees. Our elected chairs and officers do not govern, they are trusted servants and they have the right to be wrong. When a service committee or a Group is thought to violate Traditions or suggested guidelines by its action, any A.A. Group member has the right to question such action. This is done by questioning the action taken at a meeting. A proposal to change or nullify an action is presented for a vote. This procedure is outlined in the Area 17 Assembly Suggested Guidelines and Procedures to assist Groups in managing a Group Conscience. The Area Assembly Guidelines are compiled from the shared experienc-

es of the Groups within the Area. They also reflect guidance given through the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, the General Service Conference and the Pacific Region Trustee.

In keeping with our Tradition of autonomy except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole, all decisions are made by the Group Conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed Group Conscience, thus eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. This is why our Pacific Regional Trustee is available to assist a Group Conscience when there is conflict due to the interpretation of the Traditions.

A.A.'s Third Legacy is the procedure adopted by the Area 17 Assembly to elect its officers and it is suggested that Districts, Groups, and Services Committees adopt this procedure. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. As the Panel 61 trusted servants stand for office, the principle of consistent rotation of responsibility is followed in virtually all A.A. Service positions. Delegates to the General Service Conference traditionally serve no longer than two years and alcoholic trustees of the General Service Board are limited to a four-year term. I encourage all Panel 61 members to study the A.A. Service Manual and all of the suggested guidelines that pertain to your position.

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 \*  
 \* **SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE** \*  
 \* **POTLUCK DINNER MEETING** \*  
 \*  
 \* When? Dec. 4, 2010, 6 to 9 PM \*  
 \* Where? Liholiho Elementary \*  
 \*  
 \* Bring your favorite dish to the \*  
 \* Potluck Dinner \*  
 \* If you want to get into service, come to \*  
 \* Our home group meeting on \*  
 \* Oct.16 & Nov. 20, 2010 @ 6:45 PM \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

Area 17 "loosely" follows Roberts Rules of Order, which when practiced, allows the discussion to proceed in an informal, yet business-like, manner.

By writing this article, I am able to see my part as a trusted servant. I believe that Bill and Bob gave us all the Spiritual Tools necessary to carry on A.A. Business...the message to keep it simple as we help the suffering alcoholics worldwide.

I thank all of Panel 59 members for loving and tolerating me these past two years of my general service! I wish all who stand for a Panel 61 service position the power to fulfill it.

Aloha Panel 61 members!

**Paul Komara,**  
**DCM District 8, West Hawaii**  
**Area 17, Panel 59**



### **PRAASA 2011**

Aloha Kakou.

PRAASA 2011 will be held on O'ahu in 2011, at the Ala Moana Hotel from March 4<sup>th</sup>, through the 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity for our State to show the Pacific Region fellowship how we get into service for our sobriety and I invite you all to register and ask that you volunteer so that we may provide comfortable and loving care to our fellowship abroad as they visit with us and enjoy our beautiful State.

Registration forms may be obtained by visiting the PRAASA website at [www.PRAASA.org/2011](http://www.PRAASA.org/2011) or by contacting the PRAASA registration chair, Kunane D. at: [registration@praasa.org](mailto:registration@praasa.org). You may also contact (818) 570-2011 for more questions regarding this awesome inspiring three day event. So mark your schedules and do make this a "Can't Miss" happening for yourself, and all those we get to help in our fellowship.

A Hui Hou and look forward to seeing you all there.

**Kawika K.**



To have a program has changed my world as I once looked at it. I was intolerant, angry, selfish, egotistical and a bit maniacal. That all made me a very unhappy person and a dread for others to be around. I prayed to have my world change so I could know

what happiness was, well God has a sense of humor and give me a swift kick in the behind. I soon learned what true humility was and that it was I who needed to change, not the world. I got into service almost upon setting my foot in the door. I first became a literature person, within 6 months I became a GSR and held that position for the next 2 1/2 years. That was only the beginning. As my material world crumbled and fell away, with in my first 2 years of sobriety, I found myself grasping on, with all my might, to maintain my sobriety. It was only after I learned to let go and let God, that I found true humility. Soon after that, one by one the promises came to me. I have found that serenity is **Not** another word for boredom. I have found my happiness, that I searched so long and hard for, in the steps of A.A. I sponsor several women and stay in service at a clean and sober house, that I once lived in. This program has given me "hope." I am almost 62 years old, going for a degree, I have found love once again, have I have learned to listen and not judge and to advise without controlling. I am eternally grateful that God led me to this world of sobriety.

In Loving Sobriety

**Ellie K.**



### **General Service**

#### **What is the General Service Conference?**

The Fellowship's annual business meeting.

A.A.'s primary vehicle of communication.

The guardian of world services and of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A service body only, never a government for Alcoholics Anonymous.

A worthy successor to our founders and a reliable guide in good times and bad.

All of the above.

#### **What do we need business meetings for?**

It is where the group conscience happens.

It is an optimum setting in which big and little issues can be aired and reconciled and a group consensus reached.

So people of diverse backgrounds and temperament can rise above personal ambition and unite in one common purpose – to stay sober and help the still-suffering alcoholic.

To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united.

For A.A. unity, our lives, and the lives of those to come.  
All of the above.

**How can I participate?**

Volunteer to serve your meeting, district, Intergroup, area, or region.  
Attend your home group/business meetings.  
Contribute financially to your meetings, district, Intergroup, area and GSO.  
Share your experience, strength and hope with newcomers.  
Share you experience, strength and hope with Alcoholics Anonymous.  
All of the above.

Reprinted with Permission from Box 459 Vol. 51, No.2/ April-May 2005, p.1 & 7.

**Hawaii Area 17 Treasurer  
2010 Year End Summary**

As the Hawaii Area 17 treasurer, it's been a pleasure and responsibility to keep track of and distribute your contributions. You have made it possible for area officers and standing committee chairs to serve A.A. Here is my year end summary:

Each month I deposited your contributions. The savings and checking account bank statements were reconciled. The Delegate and Area Chair received copies of these reconciliations. For each of the four assemblies held in 2010 (Inventory, Inform the Delegate, Budget, and Elections), and three Committee meetings, a financial statement of expenditures and contributions was prepared and distributed.

The Finance Committee, comprised of the Area Alternate Chair (Colin), DCMs from each island (Jim on Kauai, Delori and Sheri on Oahu, and Paul on the Big Island), a past delegate (drawn from the hat), and me continued to work as a team. We met at assemblies and committee meetings, and communicated via the area email system between assemblies and committee meetings. Your finance committee discussed concerns members brought to our attention. We made decisions that we hoped were best for A.A.

Based on information gathered from area officers and committee chairs, and with consideration of the recession, the finance committee prepared a draft 2011 budget. Each committee member was available to present this budget draft to districts, and to receive input and suggestions. This budget was presented and approved by those voting members who attended the August Assembly.

What is hard to put into words is the spiritual component to this service position. The work has given me a greater appreciation for A.A. as a whole. Groups, meetings and individual A.A.'s in Hawaii care deeply about their own sobriety, and for Alcoholics Anonymous. It has been a privilege to serve as treasurer for Area 17.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

**Coleen A.  
Treasurer  
Area 17, Panel 59**



**Unity and the Fable of the Porcupine**

I recently received an email titled "Fable of the Porcupine" and noticed how it speaks to our concept of unity. Here's how it goes: *It was the coldest winter ever – Many animals died because of the cold. The porcupines, realizing the situation, decided to group together. This way they covered and protected themselves; but the*

*quills of each one wounded their closest companions even though they gave off heat to each other. After awhile, they decided to distance themselves one from the other and they began to die, alone and frozen. So they had to make a choice: either accept the quills of their companions or disappear from the Earth. Wisely, they decided to go back to being together. This way they learned to live with the little wounds that were caused by the close relationship with their companion, but the most important part of it, was the heat that came from the others. This way they were able to survive.*

Moral of the story: The best relationship is not the one that brings together perfect people, but the best is when each individual learns to live with the imperfections of others and can admire the other person's good qualities.

That is the essence of compassion and the group unity that we practice, especially in general service. We realize that, if we don't stick together, we will die – alone. I am forever grateful to our founders for developing the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts and for passing them on to all of us.

**Linda Mc.  
Alternate Delegate  
Area 17, Panel 59**



### **12 Days of Service**

On the **first** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
use a higher power of your choice

On the **second** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **third** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **fourth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders

and use a higher power of your choice

On the **fifth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Get 5 spoonnnn----sees  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **sixth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Go to 6 weekly meetings  
Get 5 spoonnnn----sees  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **seventh** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Make 7 calls to your sponsor  
Go to 6 weekly meetings  
Get 5 spoonnnn----sees  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **eighth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Read 8 Mynah Birds  
Make 7 calls to your sponsor  
Go to 6 weekly meetings  
Get 5 spoonnnn----sees  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **ninth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
Make 9 direct amends  
Read 8 Mynah Birds  
Make 7 calls to your sponsor  
Go to 6 weekly meetings  
Get 5 spoonnnn----sees  
Go to 4 Area Assemblies  
Use 3 legacies  
We have 2 inspired founders  
and use a higher power of your choice

On the **tenth** day of service my sponsor said to me...  
say 10 daily prayers



Our area service structure connects  
Hawaii Area 17 to A.A. as a whole.  
It also connects us to each other.

If each member contributes

**\$8.08**

Area 17 will be fully funded!

**"These simple services would require small sums of money  
which we could and would pay ourselves."**

page 162, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Please make check payable to Hawaii Area Committee

Send to:

Hawaii Area Committee

#2107

575 Cooke Street, Suite A

Honolulu, HI 96813

## Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



**1** *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season.* Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



**2** *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers.* If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



**3** *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time.* If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



**4** *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations*

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



**5** *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.* Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



**6** *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*



**7** *Don't think you have to stay late.* Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



**8** *Worship in your own way.*



**9** *Don't sit around brooding.* Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



**10** *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations.* Remember—"one day at a time."



**11** *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy.* Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



**12** *"Having had a . . ."* No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.