



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

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

Activities
 Banquet
 Convention
 Fellowship
 Forum
 Golf
 Hawaiian

Participation
 Principle
 Reception
 Regional
 Registration
 Responsibility
 Service

Speakers
 Spirituality
 Theme
 Traditions
 Trustee
 Unity
 Volleyball

From our delegate....

Aloha all, and welcome to our last Area Committee meeting of Panel 59! I am so grateful to be here with you all today after having missed the August Assembly. I appreciate all the love and support Hawaii Area members showed me during my personally difficult summer. Serving as your Delegate continues to bless me with spiritual growth in ways I'd never imagined, and truly is an honor beyond my wildest dreams. I love AA and those to whom I am directly responsible to beyond words.

Tradition Two / Concept Four:

Today I'd like to speak a little about Tradition Two and Concept Four in light of some recent events within our Area that I have been very concerned about. I have prayed about this, sought guidance from service sponsorship, and finally tried to ignore the feeling in my na'au that it's my responsibility to speak to this. It wouldn't go away, so here I am. I truly believe that Servant Leadership often requires one to take an unpopular stand or bring up the uncomfortable in Alcoholics Anonymous. In Tradition Two, we are reminded that our Ultimate Authority is a Loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. In order for us to reach that group conscience, we must have full and thorough discussion in the appropriate arena for that discussion. Then we can all practice our Right of Participation. When a proposal is brought to the Area and it is not allowed to move forward, the groups and members of Hawaii Area 17 Alcoholics Anonymous are then denied their participation and their responsibility to discuss and have a voice in matters affecting AA in our Area. The business of AA is a spiritual business, to which we apply spiritual principles. The majority and the minority will always have their chance to be heard, have a place to be heard – and that is on the floor during open discussion at an Assembly. Remember, God is our Ultimate Authority and our Higher Power is in charge here.

Pacific Regional Forum:

I attended the Pacific Regional Forum over the weekend of August 26-28, 2010 in Torrance, CA. along with our Alternate Chair, Colin. There were 822 members in attendance, and 590 were first time attendees, as was I. It was an amazing experience, and I will try to attend each time I am able in the future. I wish I had the opportunity to go in the past, as it would have enhanced my service to AA and knowledge about the General Service Structure. In 2011 there will be an additional Pacific Regional Forum, August 19-21 in Woodland Hills, CA. In 2012 the regular Pacific Regional Forum will be in Fairbanks, AK September 14-16.

I attended presentations, workshops and presented on Sponsorship. I got to spend time with my service sponsor, our past Regional Trustee, and spend time getting to know our new Pacific Regional Trustee Rod B. I was called on to answer several questions from the floor during the open sharing /ask it basket sessions. I brought some copies of the final report, along with a piece about the Services provided by GSO and AAWS. Please take one and share it with your district. Here are some highlights of the weekend:

- Anonymity protects AA from alcoholics
- Anonymity is more about preserving Alcoholics Anonymous, less about peoples privacy
- The process is more important than the final decision
- The fellowship is refreshed by the spirit of rotation
- An AAGV subscription is not just a subscription, it is supporting the GV
- Current subscription number is 90,000, needs to be 110,000
- Prudence is rational concern without worry
- The traditions and concepts are living principles
- Trust and faith are the primary principles of the concepts
- Are the traditions and concepts being passed on through sponsorship?
- AA is not a country club for socializing, it is a hospital for the sick
- Spirituality is not what I believe, it's not what I think, its what I do

- My group will never be more enthusiastic than I am.
- The AAWS E Tech AD Hoc Committee expects to have an electronic format available in about a year.
- When we talk about predators in AA, its not about chasing predators out of AA, it's about creating a safe environment for members or potential members.
- Tradition 11 doesn't talk about Pony Express, smoke signals, telegraphs or telegrams when the traditions were written because in those days press, radio and files were the primary forms of communication. Today our primary forms of communication are email and the internet.

On Sunday morning, Ward E., our Chairman of the Board, said his sense of the weekend was "The times, they are a changing."

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, April 22 - 28, 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. The theme, presentation and workshop topics for each General Service Conference are discussed by delegates during the week of the Conference. These topics revolve around basic principles of A.A. and can spark thought-provoking discussion at Area and district meetings as well. Regions, areas and districts may incorporate discussion of these topics into workshops, meetings, pre-Conference assemblies, etc. This gives A.A. members involved in service the opportunity to participate and become more informed about A.A.

The Corrections assignment updated the A.A. Guidelines for Corrections Committees with additional language regarding how A.A. members cooperate with the rules of local facilities, and a new section on Pre-release/Bridging the Gap/Temporary contacts. Additional language regarding cooperation with facility regulations and how the A.A. committee might prepare members new to this Twelfth Step work will be in the next printing of the Corrections Workbook. The Corrections Desk is also seeking local shared experience about how Corrections Committees resolve perceived conflicts between facility regulations, and what A.A. does not do, particularly regarding facility regulations that involve legally binding paperwork. Please send your email to the Corrections Desk at corrections@aa.org to pass along local experience, so that others may benefit from

HANA CARAVAN 2010

Last Sunday of every month

October 31

November 28

December 26

Wananalua Church

Potluck Dinner 4:30 PM

AA Meeting 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions??? dcm5@area17aa.org

shared experience.

The trustees' Literature Committee formed the following three subcommittees to address recommendations approved at the 2010 General Service Conference: Subcommittee on the Development of Literature Which Focuses on Spirituality; Subcommittee on the pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs," and a Subcommittee on the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

At G.S.O., there are two staff changes: after an internal promotional recruitment for the new position, Director of Staff Services, Doug R. has been appointed this position effective October 1, 2010. Additionally, duties of Staff Coordinator have been carefully reviewed and due to the critical nature of the principal responsibilities, it was determined to retain this position with additional assignment of web services and a title change to Staff Coordinator/Web Services. Rick W. assumed this position on October 1, 2010.

The next AA membership survey will be conducted in 2011.

The A.A. Service Manual, edition 2010-2011, will be mailed out by October 20th.

The Regional directories have been mailed out already. I spoke to one DCM who states that many of their groups were not listed. DCMs: please check your copy, and note any discrepancies and communicate them to our Registrar, Sue.

The first batch of AAGV surveys has been input into the database by my lovely alternate, Linda, and has been sent off to the Area that is compiling the sur-

veys for all the Delegate Areas that are participating. So far, 83 surveys we mailed in and 50 were completed online. We have 3 more weeks to collect, and then we will be closing out the survey to enable us to have adequate time to collate and transmit the results.

E-Tech Surveys - today is the last day we can accept these surveys, as they are due to GSO at the end of this week and we still have to compile the results.

During the opening of one of the sessions at the regional Forum, as we said the Serenity Prayer, my soul signed and I experienced one of those moments of complete connectedness and a sense of purpose. Thank you all for this opportunity to be helpful and useful, to be of love and service and to continue my climb out of darkness and despair into love, light and laughter.

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



Pacific Regional Forum - Alternate Area Chair Report

Aloha Area 17, from Colin, your Alt. Area Chair, and here is my report from the Pacific Regional Forum. First of all, I would like to say 'Thank You' to Ken for sending me in his place. The Forum began with a

*
* **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 *

**Dying to be published?
Can't wait to share your
service stories, successes?
Heard a great quote in a
meeting?
Next **Mynah Bird** Deadline
Sunday, November 14, 2010**

very nice welcome and opening remarks from our Class A Trustee, (nonalcoholic), General Service Board Chairman, Reverend Ward Ewing. I particularly liked this comment of his, "I firmly believe that together we can ensure that this Fellowship will not only stay together, but will continue to be that beacon of hope for alcoholics yet to come."

We were then introduced to our new Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B. from Area 69, Utah. He came out of the hat at the General Service Conference in April and he is a wonderful example of sobriety and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. Next, Phyllis H., a previous Pacific Region Trustee, was introduced as our new General Manager. She gave a report on the General Service Office and the employees. There are 82 full-time and 5 part-time paid staff.

One hundred sixty-eight Regional and Special Forums have been held since 1975. The purpose of the forums is to improve communication within the Fellowship. Members of the board, G.S.O. staff members and the Grapevine editorial staff gave presentations and shared information throughout the weekend. Here are a few notable bits of information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous can be found in 180 countries and the book Alcoholics Anonymous is printed in 60 languages.
- Membership in U.S. and Canada is approximately 1,400,000 with 63,175 groups (including Correctional Facilities).
- Since the first printing of the book Alcoholics Anonymous through December 31, 2009 there have been 30,664,881 Big Books printed in English (all versions) and 879,541 in Spanish (all versions.) During the same time frame, there have been 14,727,777 Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (all versions) in English and 569,929 (all versions) in Spanish.

Here are some quotes from the panel of Past Pacific Regional Trustees –

- Our doors should open wider and wider, all are welcome no matter what.
- Should we become more aware of our behavior among members?
- AA has no Dogma, we transmit hope.

- Spirituality has no boundaries.
- Guard our anonymity in the digital world.

And everyone who saw that I was from Area 17 wanted to talk PRAASA. They said that we should expect a large turnout for PRAASA 2011. Thank you for allowing me to participate.

Colin
Alternate Area Chair
Area 17, Panel 59



Our Area 17 A.A. service structure could use continued support from A.A. groups, and from A. A. members as well. It used to be that group contributions could foot the bill. As group expenses have risen, some groups have not been able to support the area as they once could. But, A.A. members could help Hawaii Area 17 by making individual contributions directly to the area.

Individual A.A. members, please ask your higher power what, if anything, you can do to support our area. Maybe you'll stand for a service position, maybe you'll provide the needed funds that make Area 17 service work possible.

I was asked if there was an easy way to let members know how we could support our area. If each member contributed \$8.08, our expense for 2011 would easily be covered.

Please make payable to Hawaii Area Committee and send check to the following address:

Hawaii Area Committee
#2107
575 Cooke Street, Suite A
Honolulu, HI 96813

Coleen A.
Treasurer
Area 17, Panel 59



Why I Go to PRAASA

I attended my first PRAASA in 2007, my first year as GSR for my home group, the Downtown Lunch

Group here in Honolulu. I was due for a vacation and love to travel so I thought I'd give it a try. After all I figured, at the very least I could see a bit of Portland.

I've been going to PRAASA ever since.

PRAASA is, of course, the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. Here's a map:




Everyone is welcome to attend PRAASA and when it comes to Honolulu in March of 2011 I hope everyone does just that. I trust you'll be as wowed as I was by the level of enthusiasm for service and the commitment to insuring that Alcoholics Anonymous

will always be here shown by everyone.

I will, however, admit to feeling a little bit out of place at my first PRAASA. While I'd been to conventions before, both here in Honolulu as well as the 2005 World Convention in Toronto, those seem to be me to be social functions. PRAASA on the other hand, however social the participants might be, and they are, was focused solely on the topics at hand; current issues in A.A. and items likely to be discussed at that year's General Service Conference.

It didn't take long to acclimatize and soon I was in the swing of things, listening carefully to the panelists as they presented their research on the topics they'd been assigned. Then, after a long day of panels, we continued on into the night with one of the best features of PRAASA; roundtable discussions by service position.

At these roundtables folks gather according to their service position and discuss issues relating to their service work. GSRS from all over gather together and share their experience, strength, and hope, as well as tips on how best to fill that service position. As you current Panel 59 webmaster it's been invaluable for me to meet with the web committee folks




PRAASA 2011

March 4 – 6, 2011

Honolulu, HI

Ala Moana Hotel
(Honolulu, HI)

Questions?? Go to www.praasa.org
Click on link to
PRAASA 2011 Information



from other areas.

If I've learned anything from attending PRAASA it's that our challenges are not unique. Every Area in the Pacific Region faces the same challenges we do. When we bemoan the fact that in order to meet we have to travel interisland we can look to Alaska as they at least as challenged. We get to fly on jets with free juice; Alaskan A.A.s might have to fly in a single prop plane and land on ice.

I was honored to be asked to be the webmaster for PRAASA 2011 and I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to something that has helped me grow so much in the last four years.

I look forward to seeing you at PRAASA 2011! Online registration is available right now at www.praasa.org.

PRAASA 2011
March 4-6, 2011
Honolulu, HI

Bob
Webmaster
Area17, Panel 59



Facing Adversity Sober

My name is Daniel, I am an Alcoholic and my sobriety date is September 6, 1993. For the third time in my life I am faced with major adversity and for the second time I am faced with it clean and sober. What a blessing. Each time, even though the experiences were traumatic and painful, adversity always provided me with the opportunity for spiritual growth and a chance to become a better person. Progress not perfection.

On September 2, 2010, I was diagnosed with an aortic aneurysm and a congenital bicuspid aortic valve. When the doctor told me, I was both shocked and fearful, but the first thought that came to my mind was the thought of God and the need to get to a meeting ASAP. I have been attending as many meetings as I can and it really helps me to stay centered and connected during these challenging times. At the end of a meeting one guy reminded me to pray for my doctors.

I am scheduled for open heart surgery on October 6 @ 7:30 AM in Seattle. I can't imagine having to face something like this if I was still drinking or using drugs. I feel very blessed for having been clean and sober for the last 17 years, thanks to my Higher Power and Alcoholic Anonymous!

My friend George reminded me recently that if I just turn it over, it's only upside down and that I must turn it over and LET IT GO... God will do for us, what we can't do for ourselves, "If we let him" SO LET GO AND LET GOD and enjoy the ride!

If you are interested to find out the outcome of my surgery, please visit www.heart-valve-surgery.com/journals/user/daniel. You are welcome to leave me a note by signing my Guestbook.

Aloha and a heartfelt mahalo for keeping me sober today!

God Bless.

Daniel
Mauna Lani, HI



*In the spirit of A.A.'s tradition of self support
Hawaii Area 17 accepts contributions
only from A. A. members and groups.*

Our mailing address is:

***Hawaii Area Committee
#2107
575 Cooke St., Suite A
Honolulu, HI 96813***

(The address must be exactly as above!)

Please make all checks payable to: Hawaii Area Committee

Individuals – please include your District Number

(Contributions from individuals will be noted as “Anonymous.”)

Groups please include your Group Name and District Number.

District Numbers:

#1 Diamond Head

#6 Kauai

#11 Kihei

#2 Honolulu

#7 East Hawaii

#12 Puna

#3 Leeward Mauka

#8 West Hawaii

#13 Tri Island

#4 Windward

#9 Central North Shore

#17 Waianae

#5 Maui No Ka`Oi

#10 Waikiki

- The area holds an important middle position in the Conference structure – through the elected delegate, it participates in A. A. worldwide.
- The area assembly is the mainspring of the Conference structure - the democratic voice of the movement expressing itself, page S36 of The A.A. Service Manual.

WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words and then unscramble the circled letters to complete the phrase below:

CONIAT O O

VIRSEEC O O

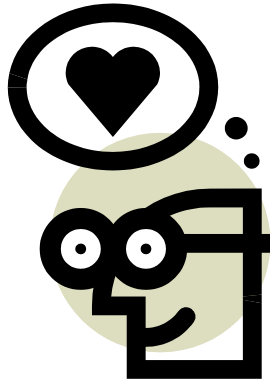
NADCEDITIO O O O

LEEPOP O O

GIVONT O O

AVTERSN O O

TETESCOMIM O O O



I _____ my _____ !



**49th Annual Hawaii Convention
November 4 – 7, 2010
Hilton Hawaiian Village**

Registration and information at
www.annualhawaiiConvention.com

**Don't miss this opportunity to hear great
speakers and join in the wonderful
AA fellowship we have here in Hawaii.**

**Thursday night will feature local speakers
and is FREE and OPEN to all.**

AA in the Digital Age

Hosted by West Hawaii Intergroup and District 8

What? Learn more on....
Carrying the message online
What about Anonymity?
Practicing our Principals on AA Websites

When? Saturday October 23, 2010, 9 – 11 AM
Where? Kona Neighborhood Place

Questions? Contact Rachel @ West Hawaii Intergroup 329- 1212

**Join us as we explore the digital future of Alcoholics
Anonymous in West Hawaii**

Please RSVP so we can get an approximate head count.