



Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

Regional Forums

If you're like me, you're not quite sure what happens at a Regional Forum. You might be asking yourself:

- What the heck are they? What do they do there?
- Why should I go? I mean, I went to PRAASA two years ago.
- Aren't those for "Service Junkies?"

Here's what I know - It seems to be a magical gathering – just like PRAASA. My service sponsor goes to every Regional Forum she can and always has an amazing experience. Granted she's a service "junkie" but nevertheless she has piqued my interest on several occasions. They just always seem to come at an awkward time in my "oh so busy" life. This year, as your Area Chair, I will have the pleasure of attending on behalf of Area 17.

Here's what the flyer says the purpose of this forum is:

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

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

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

The flyer for this year's 2011 Pacific "Additional" Regional Forum states that "We are coming together to share experience on several topics:"

- Why should I care about AA beyond my home group?
- AA History – Boring or incredible spiritual journey?
- How does support of GSO help AAs worldwide?
- Does your home group use the AA Grapevine or La Vina as a Twelfth Step tool?
- The upside down triangle – how are the General Service Board, the AAWS and Grapevine Boards accountable to the Fellowship?
- How do I have a voice in AA?
- What do the Traditions and Concepts have to do with my home group?

The 2011 Pacific Regional Forum will be held August 19 – 21 in Woodland Hills, CA. Registration information is available on AA's website, www.aa.org.

After putting all this together, I am even more excited to be representing Area 17. Mahalo for the opportunity to attend and for this incredible life I have as a result of AA. As a prior delegate often says, my life is filled with "light, laughter and love."

Mahalo mucho,

Cheryl N.
Chair
Area 17, Panel 61



The God Lottery

In my first months getting sober, I couldn't understand why I was being "saved". Why my life was being spared from ending from the terrible disease of alcoholism.

A very beautiful person told me that I had won the God lottery. Out of all the millions of people who die from this disease, in the streets and next door, I had been given the opportunity to get sober and stay that way. I was amazed! How fortunate I thought, then I realized that I had been blessed, spared from a horrible death from the result of having alcoholism. So I latched onto that idea. Through all the turmoil of the first weeks of my sobriety, all the joys and mini triumphs I clung to my lottery ticket for dear life.

I knew that if I gave up and threw away my ticket and drank that I might not ever have the chance to get it back. So I carried my lottery ticket in my pocket and had faith, that I was special as everyone is who has the opportunity to get sober and takes it.

I had won the God Lottery and if I drank now I would give up my million dollars and the opportunity to live a full and productive life. One of courage and service, one of pure beauty and thankfulness, one that if not for grace I might never have had the opportunity to have. I now have an amazing connection to my higher power, the God of my understanding. As I approach my fifth birthday, I cannot help but to feel so grateful for my life. I don't think that I have ever felt such a feeling of love towards so many people at once. And not just the ones within my scope, I have love for alcoholics all over the world, all repeating the serenity prayer at the same time and holding hands in circles.

We are all joined by the circles of sobriety, a common image in my poetry which my new life has given back to me. We all cling to our tickets and when our lives are complete, and the spirit of the universe releases us from our bodies in this human experience we will live forever in the legacy that was brought forward so many decades ago.

Our fore-fathers knew that our journeys would be unforgettable, and now that we have the opportunity to help so many people around the world get sober I feel like I have the responsibility to carry the message the best way I know how. I hope that my little words may touch those who look upon us tentatively and ponder the opportunity of living the wonderful traditions that have been placed before us. My heart goes out to those people and God willing, they will make it too! And follow the simple instructions laid out in the big book of alcoholics anonymous and cling to their lottery tickets with all their might and not let go! May the spirit of the universe as we understanding bless us this fine day and may we all live in peace love and harmony through the struggles joys and heartaches of our lives. I won the God Lottery and I proclaim it quietly as I am taught and speak of it to my brothers and sisters with only the best intentions.

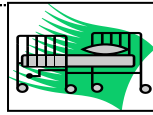
With much love and aloha,
Cindy W.



Kindergarten for Spirits

In a classroom set outside of time
Though not absurd, we are taught
To listen putting clouds in our mouths
And open our ears. Then we learn
To risk. We learn our A B C's,
123's and our own personal truths.
We learn to trust as we open as doors
To let each other in. we greet warm
And instruct from books of genius
Forming new lives and in our own
Dimensions demonstrate how to create.
We live to create love and spark learning
And sponge it up and live high
Though our feet are on the ground.
We grow up every day, we climb
The stairs of life's classroom, some
Will make it, some die, some just
Disappear. I quake at the thought
Of blowing it now. Sparkling grape
Juice filled my glass and I shook
And I fear that I get an F today.
I fear that in my light headedness
I have made a mistake. I peer
Intently at the bottle saying non
And sigh with relief. Though
Today's class hit just too close to home.
My mind recreates my fears in my life
What I fear most is losing it all
So I take my hat and coat and go
Out into the warm air. Recess
Time to play and digress and
Play jacks with time and shoot
The hoops, time to run around
The bases and kick the can.
We hide and seek each others
Souls, set aside pride and illustrate
On the blackboards in our minds
Higher-power chalk inscribes
We are successful already and before
We leave for another day,
We hold each other's hands and
Say it's ok. We are here now and
All is alright and we exit into the night
And the planetarium of reality bows
Us to the moment and one at a time
God blows out the stars with a puff
Of surrender and we give up.

Cindy W.



Bedside Matters

The PRAASA roundtable on hospitals was attended by members from California, Idaho and Hawaii. It was inspiring to hear about the work being done in other areas and heartening to recognize that the same unevenness is being experienced throughout the Pacific Region and thus, I assume, in areas not represented there.

One of the clearest messages expressed by the members present was the necessity to work with CPC, PI and other elements within our service structure in order to carry the message to those in hospitals.

A second point of discussion was a brief classification of the kinds of patients we experience: Those whose drinking has brought them to the institution, those who are currently in the fellowship and are suffering from a non-alcohol-related illness, and those who are experiencing long-term or terminal care. While each of these categories requires different services, all can benefit from the solution on which we all agree!

Anyone engaged in this process in the hospitals of our state is encouraged to contact me at :
hospitals@area17aa.org.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

Jim D.

Hospital Chair
Area 17, Panel 61



CONFIRMED

FALL BUDGET ASSEMBLY

*September 24 & 25, 2011
Kaneohe, Oahu*

Please remember to book your flights so you arrive on time and do not need to leave before the assembly is pau. The assembly will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday morning and will close at 4:00 pm. So return flights should be scheduled after 5:45 pm on Sunday.

Please book early!

HICYPAA

Aloha Hawaii Area 17,

The Hawaiian Island Conference of Young People in AA (HICYPAA) Advisory Committee would like to take this opportunity to inform Area 17 about our purpose and upcoming events.

Young People's Groups in Alcoholics Anonymous began appearing around 1945 in Los Angeles, Cleveland and Philadelphia, and now they can be found all across North America. In 1958, a meeting of young AA's from across the US and Canada started what is now the International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYCAA), and it has met on an annual basis ever since. At the 1960 AA convention, Bill W. noted that the age of new members was much lower than when he and Dr. Bob founded AA 25 years earlier. In a letter to ICYPAA dated June 15, 1989, Bill wrote "...in recent years I have found nothing for greater inspiration than the knowledge that A.A. of tomorrow will be safe, and certainly magnificent, in the keeping of you who are the younger generation of A.A. today."

HICYPAA was founded in Hawaii in 1996 for the purpose of providing a setting for a local annual celebration of sobriety among young people in AA. Since its inception, a growing group of people, who at first would not consider themselves as "young people," have become regular attendees. The number of young people suffering from alcoholism who turn to AA for help is growing, and HICYPAA helps to carry AA's message of recovery to alcoholics of all ages. This meeting provides an opportunity for young AA's from all over Hawaii and the world to come together to share their experience, strength, and hope as members of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA members who attend a HICYPAA return home better prepared to receive young people who come to AA looking for a better way of life.

HICYPAA provides visible evidence that large numbers of young people are achieving a lasting and comfortable sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. The three legacies of AA – Recovery, Unity, and Service – are the backbone of HICYPAA just as they are throughout AA. HICYPAA has a history as an established AA conference. It contributes to the AA General Service Office, as well as to Area17 and the Hawaii Intergroups. HICYPAA and its attendees are also committed to reaching out to the newcomer, and to involvement in every other facet of AA service. Newcomers are shown, by people their own age, that using AA principles in their daily lives & getting involved in AA service can have a significant impact on a lasting & comfortable sobriety.

Each year a new host island is selected through a bidding process that is a part of the annual event. HICYPAA is excited to announce that Oahu has received the bid and will host this year's event which has been tentatively scheduled for October, 2011.

We recognize and appreciate your role in supporting young people in Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you.

Mike K.
Treasurer
HICYPAA Advisory Committee



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Remember

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



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2011 Area Assemblies & Committee Meetings

Dates	Function	Hosting District	Island
September 24 - 25	Budget Assembly	Windward District 4	Oahu

Dates for all 2011 events are **CONFIRMED**.

2012 Area Assemblies & Committee Meetings

January	Inventory Assembly	East Hawaii District 7	Big Island (Hilo)
February	Committee Meeting	Central North Shore District 9	Oahu
April	Inform the Delegate	Diamond Head District 1	Oahu
May	Committee Meeting	Tri-Island District 13	Maui
August	Budget Assembly	Puna District 12	Big Island (Hilo)
October	Committee Meeting	Waianae District 17	Oahu
November	Election Assembly	West Hawaii District 8	Big Island (Kona)

Who should attend?

Assemblies – GSRs, DCMs, Intergroup chairs, Standing Committee chairs, Area officers

Committee meetings - DCMs, Intergroup chairs, Standing Committee chairs, Area officers



2011 Pacific Regional Forum

Where? Warner Center Marriott
Woodland Hills, CA
818 887-4800

When? August 19 - 21, 2011

Who's invited? All AA members, anyone interested in AA
First time Forum attendees WELCOME!!

Registration fee? FREE

Need more info? **GSO's AA Web Site** - www.aa.org
Hotel Reservation Online—www.aa.org/pacific2011

50th Annual Hawai'i Convention

The Wisdom to Know the Difference

November 17 - November 20, 2011

Hilton Hawaiian Village

Friday Night : Candice M. - West Hollywood, CA

Saturday Night: Paul McQ. - Oceanside, NY

Sunday Morning: Madeline P. - Meridian, ID

Online registration & information:

www.annualhawaiiconvention.com



West Hawaii Founders' Day & Delegate Report Back



Hapuna Beach Pavilion
Saturday, June 11th, 2011
10:00 am - 4:00 pm*



West Hawaii District will supply hamburgers, hotdogs & **beverages. It's a POTLUCK, so you'll want to bring:**

A dish to share (side, green salad or dessert)

A beach chair

This day is packed with entertainment & fun! Come enjoy **our Delegate's report back and a day full of fellowship!**

Questions? Contact Tommy G @ dcm8@area17aa.org.

*** Plan to stay for the 5:00 p.m. Hapuna Beachcomber's meeting!**

Sponsored by District 8, West Hawaii AA

Heard in a Meeting...

**“The steps prevent suicide,
the traditions prevent homicide.”**

“God, if I’m not enough, I’m screwed.”

**“The will of God will never take you where
the Grace of God will not protect you.”**

“The answer is inside.”



“We are not defined by our mistakes.”

**“I always lived in fear
and I always got it wrong.”**

**“An alcoholic is a person who, from a
single tree, creates a great forest in which
he immediately gets lost.”**

**“Hope is the feeling you have that the
feeling you have isn’t permanent.”**

