

DELEGATE REPORT
Budget Assembly
August 18, 2012

It's good to be back in Pahoā. Almost, six years ago, the day before our Election Assembly, I miraculously survived a three-hour hike on the lava fields at Kalapana, wearing hiking boots I had just picked at the dump and with NO water! The next day I was so happy to be alive; I stood for my first area officer position. I can hardly believe that in about 4-1/2 months, I will be relegated to the back row as a silent observer. Could be my toughest challenge yet.

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (GSC): Following our Inform-the-Delegate Assembly in April, I attended the 62nd GSC in Rye, NY. I find that participating in the conference is both humbling and educational because not only have I witnessed a some of A.A. as a whole (and come to know that we are not it) but also I have been a part of the service structure process that began as an experiment in 1950. We are all here because of the General Service Structure and our trust in the process of the Conference, our annual business meeting. I am a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous today because someone took the responsibility to reach out to me with the hand of A.A. We must always ask how we can better reach and serve the broadest possible range of alcoholics of whatever age, race, faith, and digital capabilities. The GSC is a precious gift passed on to us by our forebearers and, as the inheritors of their legacy, it is our responsibility to be sure the hand of A.A. is always there for the still suffering alcoholic reaching out for help anywhere in the world. The following is a brief summary of some of the Advisory Actions approved by the Conference this year:

- Floor Action: The limit on one-time bequests from A.A. members to the General Service Board has been increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- Grapevine: A.A. Grapevine, Inc will move forward with an audio strategy to have members call in and record their story on third-party technology.
- Literature:
 - The pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" has been updated and is now available.
 - The development of literature that focuses on spirituality that will include stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in A.A. is moving forward
- Public Information:
 - The long form of Tradition 11 will not be revised to include references to current media in use. The P.I. Conference Committee concluded that the spirit and principle of anonymity at the public level is conveyed adequately by the existing long form. However, the short form may be revised.
 - The Membership Survey pamphlet has been updated to reflect the findings of the 2011 survey and is now available. Please note that in the "Introduction to A.A., where you see 1% (e.g. 1% of members

were introduced to A.A. by a member of the clergy) that represents over 14,000 members.

- Report and Charter: The term “Rotation” and its definition will be added to the *A.A. Service Manual* in Chapter One: Introduction to General Service, in the section “Glossary of General Service Terms.”
- Additional Committee Consideration (not an Advisory Action) from the conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities:
 - The Treatment Workbook and Kit have been revised with minor changes
 - The Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook and Kit have also been revised with minor changes

Note: the Agenda Item to develop literature for the alcoholic with mental illness was revised in Committee and failed on the floor of the Conference. There was a Floor Action brought that was close to the original item. Discussion on the floor went for nearly two hours with approval of the action by exactly 2/3rds majority. However, after the minority opinion was heard, a motion to reconsider passed, and, on the revote, the action failed to receive the required 2/3rds majority. Therefore, the action failed. I look for this to come back in subsequent years.

I have heard the question many times as to the appropriateness of selling the A.A. Grapevine magazine on the literature tables at our meetings. We know that we sell only Conference-approved A.A. literature. However, since it is impossible for each issue to go through the Conference approval process, the Grapevine magazine is considered Conference supported.

Another question I often hear discussed is whether or not it is OK for members to identify themselves during meetings as cross-addicted alcoholics (e.g. alcoholic/addict) as opposed to specifically and alcoholic. According to a past delegate, by doing so “I am telling you that I am a special kind of alcoholic – that my case of alcoholism is different from yours...In so doing, I have just cut our common bond in half, and, more importantly, have diluted my own purpose for being here.” It is the responsibility of each of us to keep our program intact, to pass it on to the newcomer as it was given to us. To seek a balance among every approach to A.A. is an exercise in humility, trust, and acceptance.

I’ve talked a lot about our spiritual responsibility. Now a few words about our fiscal responsibilities/opportunities: according to the financial presentation at the Conference, the cost of service per member per year is \$6.32, yet contributions per member per year are \$4.47. That leaves a shortfall of \$1.85, which must come from literature sales. Similarly, the cost of service per group per year is \$137.01, while actual contributions are \$96.95 with only 42.2% of groups contributing. We can give ourselves a pat on the back because Hawaii Area’s contribution rate is 53.1%. But let’s not rest on our laurels. Contribution rates have declined from about 58% in 1987 to the current rate of about 42%. While these numbers may be abstract to you and your eyes may glaze over when we talk about money in A.A., the fact remains that it takes financial funding to keep our

service centers operating and continuing to reach out. Our 7th Tradition funds make it possible to fulfill our spiritual responsibilities and for A.A. to reach every corner of the world. So the next time the basket comes around to you, remember that portion of your contribution helps to reach your sons, daughters, grand children, and your future friends.

Part of our reaching out goals ought to be helping those leaving treatment settings transition into A.A. in their home communities. To assist us in that effort, many areas have a Bridging the Gap committee or include this valuable tool in the Treatment Committee. I hope that you will avail yourselves of the information and tools we have available both from our Treatment Chair and on the A.A. Website. Go to aa.org, click on “For Groups and Members” and look in the yellow triangle down the side that says “Treatment Committees.” If you can go to great lengths in this valuable endeavor, you can attend the 22nd Annual A.A. Bridging The Gap Workshop Weekend September 7-9 in Bloomington, MN.

I have been reporting on the eBook project for over a year. For those of you who have been eagerly awaiting the release of the Big Book and the 12 x 12 on your Android or devices other than iPods and iPhones, the project has been ended due to the unsustainability of creating and maintaining eReader Apps. According to the GSB, the continued development of the Apps is not a practical or a prudent use of G.S.O. resources. For now, what has already been created will be maintained. For the future, the Board has concluded that best way to make eBooks widely and easily available is to utilize eReader vendors to sell our books. A progress report will be presented at the 2013 GSC.

Reminder: At the 2013 GSC, a new Trustee-at-Large will be elected to a four-year term. Each area is allowed to elect one candidate. The resume of the candidate must be submitted by the delegate before January 1, 2013. To date, no one qualified has yet stepped forward.

Another couple of reminders:

- Do not contact GSO regarding the 2015 International. Your group GSR will receive all information when registration and hotel reservations open up.
- The Pacific Regional Forum is September 14-16 in Fairbanks, Alaska. I thank each of you for the opportunity to represent Hawaii Area at one last regional event. Of course, you will get a report of my experience at the November assembly.

I have enjoyed the Conference report backs that I have attended so far. For the second year in a row, Maui was first on the schedule. What a lively bunch! We discussed the workshop topics (attached to this report) for at least an hour. I encourage each of you to discuss these important and timely items at your home groups. We were honored with the attendance of our Panel 57 Delegate Vernon G. and the Panel 59 Delegate from Area 91 Saskatchewan who happened to be vacationing on Maui. Next I visited the Big Island where I was scheduled to give two report backs, one on the west side and one on the east side as part of the respective Founders Day celebrations. Unfortunately, I was unable to

make it to the east side and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Ken C., District 12 DCM, who stepped in at the last minute to give the report back. Yet another reminder that there is always a solution.

I have also experienced the solutions built into our area service structure. Some of you know that I had major neck surgery on July 10 and was unable to get to the Leeward District or the Kauai District for the scheduled report backs. Ken K., as Alternate Delegate, graciously filled in to give those report backs, thus getting you the information about the Conference on schedule. I am confident that I will be at the Windward District on August 30th and am waiting for Waianae and Central North Shore Districts to schedule. The important thing here is that the information keeps flowing back and forth and that, by being informed about the Conference business, members will have a greater understanding and interest in our service structure.

One last thing: I have not yet received the Final Conference Reports. I am confident that they will arrive in time for the October Committee Meeting on Oahu, so the DCMs should be prepared to take home 10-12 copies each. I ordered more reports this year so that everyone who wants one gets one and to ensure that the Central Offices have a few copies each. Hopefully, we will have another successful presentation on the report at the Election Assembly in November.

Submitted in love & service,
Linda McD
Delegate Area 17, Panel 61

Our workshop was “Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare.” The following are the results of the workshop in which I participated:

- How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?
 - SMILE
 - Have both men and women greeters if mixed meeting
 - Have the meeting space set up early
 - Be ready to escort handicapped if necessary
 - Help newcomers find the coffee
 - Be sure the secretary reads housekeeping items and guidelines for the meeting (e.g. cell phones away, no smoking, crosstalk, etc.)
 - Personally invite the newcomer back
 - Be sensitive to closing the meeting with a religious prayer
 - Don’t leave any cleanup people alone to do the chores
 - SMILE

- How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. meetings safe?
 - Discourage profanity
 - Discourage sharing re sexuality
 - Educate as to pray vs. prey
 - Offer guidance in life skills
 - Be an example of appropriate conduct
 - Be aware that predators exist and speak up if see inappropriate behavior

- In keeping with the Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:
 - Conduct the disrupts the meeting
 - Be sure the secretary reads housekeeping items and guidelines for the meeting (e.g. cell phones away, no smoking, crosstalk, etc.)
 - Speak quietly with the person; if one-on-one is not effective, ask the person to leave the meeting (but not AA)
 - In group conscience, define disruptive behavior and develop a plan (snoring, texting, kids running around, pets running around)
 - Illegal activity

- Any illegal activity that jeopardizes the health and well being of others needs to be reported
- Call police
- Take action, don't withdraw
- Inappropriate behaviors towards vulnerable newcomers (e.g. "13 Stepping")
 - Be aware/mindful
 - Sponsors can alert newcomers to potentially harmful situations
 - Encourage newcomers that we need to change behavior in sobriety (i.e. appropriate dress and language)
 - Inappropriate behavior includes more than sexual predation; be mindful of monetary predation and so-called personal behaviors; watch for drug dealers
- Emergencies (injury/accident/fire)
 - Have procedures in place
 - Call 911

Finally, here are two thoughts:

- Inaction = condonation
- Remember: what's good for the group comes first, but personal welfare follows close behind.