



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

Election Assembly

November 17—18, 2012



Hosted by West Hawaii
District 8

Hale Halawai
75-5760 Alii Drive
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

STIMULATING INTEREST IN GENERAL SERVICE

Most A.A. members are primarily interested in their groups, in their own sobriety, and in helping other drunks one-on-one. And that is as it should be. While the work of general service has precisely the same objective--carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers—the connection is not always direct or obvious. Some stimulators are usually needed to get the attention of A.A. members—to show them that service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that their participation is vital to the future of A.A.

Good communication is of vital importance. In personal Twelfth Step work, there is no end to communication. The sponsor talks with the drunk; speakers share their experience; we share with each other. But when it comes to general service work, communication has a tendency to break down. It can take hard work to get the attention of alcoholics, but with a creative approach, they can be encouraged to take time out from the nuts and bolts of recovery to think about another phase of their new lives. Once A.A. members are well informed about service, they often want to become involved and to take on their own service responsibilities.

In many areas, the delegate and area committee members make themselves available to visit groups or district meetings and talk about general service. Workshops on the Traditions, Concepts, or other aspects of service are often an effective way of spreading the word of service.

"Therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass present imagination."

***Bill W
Grapevine 1960***



***Your Third Legacy
Will You Accept This
By Dr. Bob and Bill W., October, 1950***

NOTE: This is a proposal to form "The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous" – a small body of State and Provincial A.A. Delegates meeting yearly, who could assume direct responsibility for the guidance of the A.A. General Service Headquarters at New York City – not to be confused with the 1950 Cleveland International Conference.)

We, who are old in A.A., bequeath to you who are younger, these three legacies—the "12 Steps of Recovery," the "12 Traditions" and now the "General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous." Two of these legacies have long been in your keeping. By the 12 Steps you have recovered from alcoholism; by the 12 Traditions you have we are achieving a fine unity.

We now wish to deliver the members of A.A. their third legacy. Since 1938 we and our old friends have held it in trust. This legacy is the General Headquarters Services of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Alcoholic Foundation, the A.A Book, the A.A. Grapevine and the A.A. General Office. These are the principal Service assets which have enabled our Society to function and to grow.

Dr. Bob and I ask that you - the members of A.A.—now take these assets, use them, and guard them well. The future growth, the very survival of Alcoholics Anonymous may heavily depend on how prudently you administer these Arms of Service in years to come.

THE STRUCTURES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE HAWAII AREA ASSEMBLY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SET FORTH THE CONDITIONS FOR THE ELECTION ASSEMBLY

Section:

5.4 ELECTION ASSEMBLY - The area assembly holds its election of all area officers toward the end of even-numbered years.

5.5 Officers are elected by the Third Legacy procedure outlined in the A.A. Service Manual, which is read at the beginning of each election assembly.

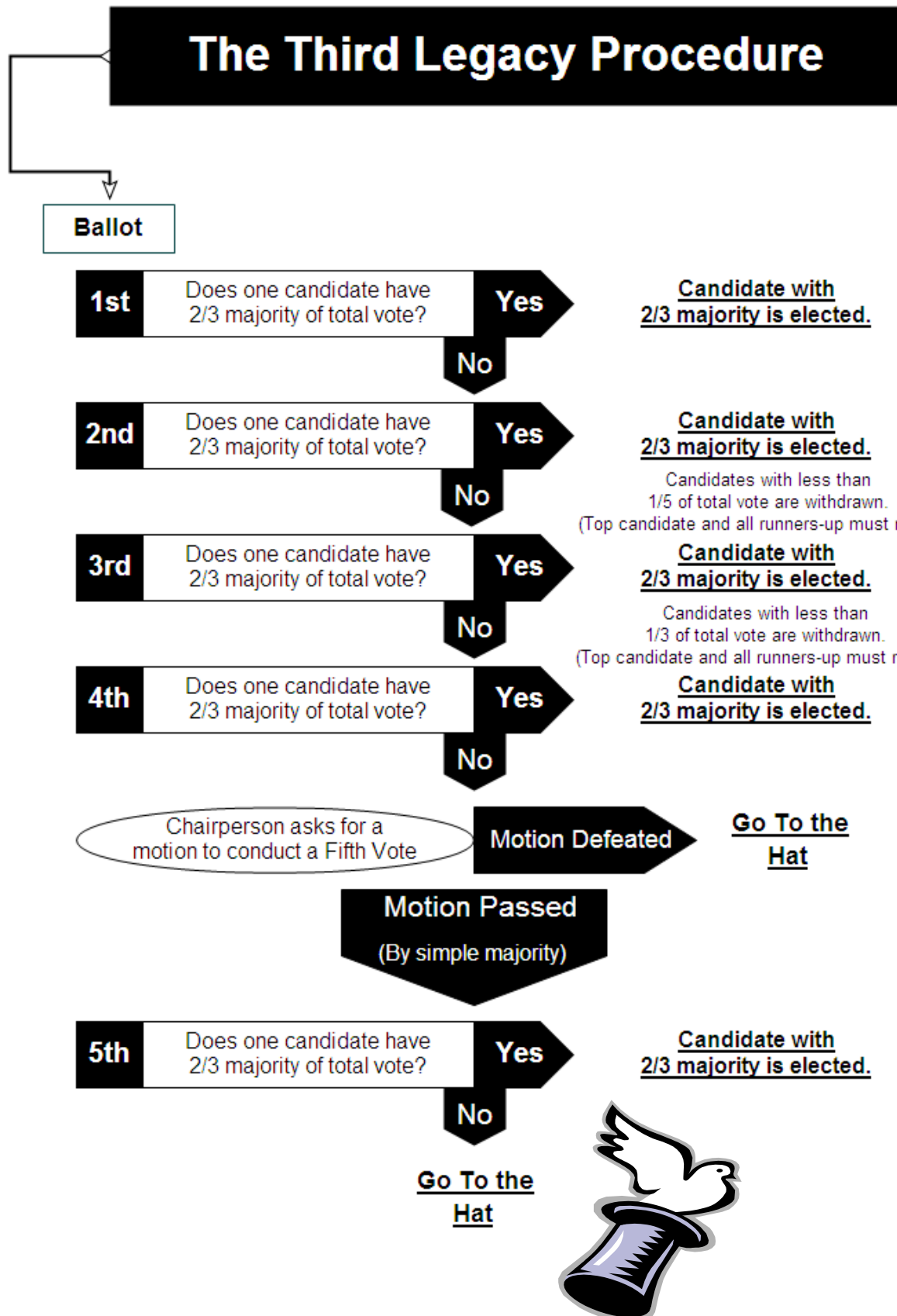
5.6 The service term is two (2) years beginning on January 1st of the odd-numbered year.

5.7 The delegate conducts the elections.



THE THIRD LEGACY PROCEDURE

A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.



HAWAII AREA 17 ELECTIONS!

Officers to be elected:



**DELEGATE
ALTERNATE DELEGATE
AREA CHAIR
ALTERNATE AREA CHAIR
TREASURER
RECORDING SECRETARY
AREA REGISTRAR**



**PUT YOUR NAME IN THE HAT
FOR AREA 17 STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

**Archives Committee Chair
Convention Steering Chair
Cooperation with the Elder Community Chair
Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair
Corrections Chair
Finance Chair
Grapevine Chair
Hospitals Chair
Mynah Bird Chair
Public Information Chair
Treatment Facilities Chair
Website Chair**

DELEGATE REPORT

October 13, 2012

While Panel 61 is drawing to a close, the work of A.A. continues as always. We will soon be seeing new faces filling our area service positions. I encourage each of you to help introduce your new counterpart to his or her responsibilities and to pass on any unfinished business you may have. The Windward District 04 will host the Orientation Assembly on January 19-20, 2013, and our Pacific Region Trustee will be in attendance. The purpose of the Orientation Assembly is to help everyone get off to a good and informed start, so please encourage each new person, especially G.S.R.s to attend.

The General Service Board is working hard to explore possible restructuring of the current corporate and governance of AAWS, Inc. and GV, Inc. in response to the Advisory Action of the 62nd General Service conference. The following is a report on additional activities of the 2nd Quarter Board Meetings:

ARCHIVES: You can find two new digital web site exhibits and the Oral Histories Kit is to be revised.

FINANCE: (All figures are for the six months ended June 30, 2012.) Net literature sales were \$6,410,196. Contributions totaled \$3,105,695. Contributions come from groups throughout the US and Canada and from countries participating in the World Service Meeting to offset the costs of foreign literature translations. Total income was \$7,171,200 while total GSO expenses were \$6,981,666. Therefore, net operating income was \$189,555. That figure is slightly more than budget, but is \$235,157 less than last year for the same period.

Good news from Grapevine, Inc: income from operations for the six month period was \$138,120, which covers the loss incurred by La Vina of \$57,270 for a net profit of \$80,950. Note: Grapevine, Inc. has not taken any draw downs this year!

The Reserve Fund (prudent reserve) stands at \$15,320,737 and represents 11.2 months of 2012 combined operating expenses budget.

All these numbers may sound very big to some of us, but take note that contributions to GSO have been steadily decreasing over the last few years. In fact contributions have been decreasing everywhere over the years, not just to GSO but also to districts and to areas. Moreover, we take a double hit because expenses have been increasing. Area 17 just passed a \$34+ budget yet contributions now have dropped to below an average \$1,700 per month. In fact, we are looking at a loss situation this year, yet 7th Tradition distributions keep decreasing! Consequently, WE all need to look for ways to increase contributions. Our expense budget is pretty bare bones as it is, so the focus needs to be on raising contributions, not on cutting services.

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1. Sharing on the effectiveness of the language of the short form of Tradition 11 in addressing the needs of the Fellowship today. Please send your responses by email to publicinfo@aa.org or by mail to P.I. Desk, General Service Office, 475 Riverside Dr, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 by December 31.

October 13, 2012

2. **Sharing regarding the pamphlet "A.A. Membership Survey" and how you are using the membership survey and what your thoughts are about its value. In addition to sharing how you currently use (or don't use) the membership survey, please take a few minutes to consider these questions, thoughts, and experience:**

- ◆ **How is the A.A. Membership Survey currently being used?**
- ◆ **How would you ideally like to use the Membership Survey?**
- ◆ **Do you ever think, "If only it said ...?"**
- ◆ **Who do you use the Membership Survey with – professionals, general public, newcomers, others?**

Please send your sharing to the preceding addresses by October 15, 2012. That's Monday!

Anonymous surveys of the Fellowship by the GSO have been conducted every three years since 1968. The main purpose has been to keep A.A.s informed about current trends in membership characteristics and to provide information about the Fellowship to the professional community and the general public as part of the continuing effort to help those who suffer from alcoholism. According to an analysis of the survey, the typical member is 49 years old, has been sober almost 10 years, attends 2.5 meetings a week, belongs to a home group and has a sponsor.

All 5 young peoples videos can now be viewed online at aa.org. In addition The Daily Reflections page is up on the aa.org website

TREATMENT/SPECIAL NEEDS-ACCESSIBILITIES: The pamphlet "A.A. For the Alcoholic with Special Needs" will be formatted for alcoholics who are deaf, blind or have learning challenges. The Spanish and French translations of the video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous" are under review to be rerecorded to eliminate or at least reduce background noise which is quite distracting.

THE GRAPEVINE INC.: I am just going to tell you that you can support Grapevine Inc, by subscribing to the Grapevine magazine, purchasing books and other gift items. There are two new books published and a growing number of eBooks. I'm going to let Clifford, our Grapevine chair, fill in the details.

The topic of the general sharing session during the July General Service Board meeting was "What is an A.A. Group?" Among other aspects, a group focuses on recovery from alcoholism and avoids multipurpose activity. A trustee stressed the importance of D.C.M.s in communicating about our primary purpose and the group's role in reaching out. The importance of sponsors in enlightening the people they sponsor on these topics was also stressed. Out of the sharing, it came to light that there is a wide spread misunderstanding of the group service number. For clarification, I refer you to the Fall 2012 issue of Box 4-5-9.

October 13, 2012

During one of the sessions at the Pacific Regional Forum, I heard a woman share that she had trouble finding a meeting in a foreign country and was intimidated by the language barrier. Please know that if you are traveling around the US/Canada or overseas, you can access meeting information through of directories of Central Offices.

Update on Tongan translations: I have been in touch with the Publications Department at GSO. There is certain paperwork that must be completed before translation can begin. It is suggested that we begin with "How It Works." Once the translation is completed locally, it must then be sent to GSO for approval. Copyright laws must be adhered to during the process. Upon receiving this information, I delegated the local follow up to Karen, DCM District 11 where the request originated. If this project is not completed this year, I will be happy to follow up with our translation volunteer in order to provide continuity.

I brought with me today registration flyers for PRAASA 2013 in Boise Idaho. Over the years I have heard the validity of some of our regional events brought into question, so I want to share some of my understanding with you. I think a primary purpose of PRAASA and the forums is to educate and increase understanding of the services offered by the General Service Board, AAWS, and Grapevine, Inc. We get to learn how A.A. as a whole works. To me education and understanding lead to the feeling of belonging, inclusion, and involvement. I have found out that all of our service leaders, except the Class A trustees, are alcoholics like I am. We, the leaders of A.A., should be chosen with care and then be trusted to serve the A.A. community in our perspective positions. Naturally, we need always to be kept accountable.

You all know that is an election year for us [in A.A.]. Next month in Kona, we will not only be electing Panel 63 officers but we will also elect our Area Candidate for Trustee-at-Large/US. So far, we have two past delegates who have expressed their willingness to stand for the position. The final election will take place at the GSC in April, 2013.

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





ARCHIVE REPORT
Interior Alaska
MOMENTS-IN-HISTORY FOR OCTOBER



The highlight date for this month is October 31, 1870 when Francis Murphy found sobriety that lasted until his death in 1907. Born in 1836, he grew up to become a destitute alcoholic. After his wife and children left him, he was imprisoned for unlawful liquor selling. While in prison Francis experienced a religious conversion that began his sobriety. Upon release he became the foremost temperance orator throughout North America and Europe spreading the "Blue Ribbon Movement", a world wide temperance group identified by the Blue Ribbons its members wore. Thousands signed his pledge of abstinence from any intoxicating liquors for the rest of their lives and most of them kept that pledge.

For October, some significant dates within our time-line--

Oct. 1789: Rev. George Bradock, a Baptist preacher is the first person to distill bourbon whiskey in north America.

Oct. 1855: Born in Stillwater, Minnesota, Howard Rusell, founded the Anti-Saloon League and president of the World League against Alcoholism.

Oct. 1883: A book is published: "The Greatest Thing in the World" by Henry Drummond, one of eleven books (including the Bible) that influenced how the Big Book was written. Drummond describes "love" as being the greatest power in the world and goes on to describe the spectrum of love as having 9 elements.

PATIENCE-KINDNESS-GENEROSITY-HUMILITY-COURTESY-UNSELFISHNESS-GOOD TEMPER-GUITLESSNESS AND SINCERITY. To these nine aspects the early alcoholics added:

GRATITUDE AND TOLERANCE

Oct. 1906: Bill Wilson's parents, Gilman and Emily Griffith Wilson divorce. This will be the first of three major depressions in our co-founders life.

Oct. 1926: Bill Dotson admitted to the bar to practice law in Ohio. He will become "A.A. number three" nine years later.

Oct. 1930: Dr. Silkworth made the connection with Charles Towns of "Towns Hospital" in N.Y.C. for a job. Dr. Silkworth had nothing losing everything in the great depression. He was given the grandiose title of "Chief Physician". The pay was pitiful but it included room and board. Turning his focus to the alcoholic after seeing alcoholism and the miserable wreckage it caused to the mind, emotions and body of those he treated. Three years later he will meet Bill W. and Bill's four trips to Towns Hospital.

Oct. 1939: The first national magazine to do an article on A.A. was "Liberty Magazine" with a two-page article titled "Alcoholics and God". This article brought in over a thousand inquires and sold 100 copies of our newly published book.

Oct. 1945: Esther E. who introduced A.A. to Texas, finds a permanent meeting place for meetings at 912 Main St. in Down Town Dallas.

Oct. 17, 1946: Helen Hazard, Rowland's wife, passed away. Rowland had died the year before (December 20th, 1945).

Oct. 1957: The book "A.A. Comes of Age" is published.

Oct. 1960: A radio series of hour-long talks out of N.Y.C. begins, called "Alcoholism-the problem and the hope" featuring G.S.O. staff members with Marty M.

Aloha Area 17,

It is hard to believe that Panel 61 is near its end. Soon new GSRs, DCMs, Standing Committee Chairs, and Officers will come together, and area assemblies and committee meetings will have a new face with its own fresh ideas. And that's what keeps the rhythm of A.A. ever changing, ever exciting, and practicing principles before personalities.

I wish I had the words to describe my experiences over the last two years serving as your Area Delegate. I have been blessed, nervous, scared (rode the subway in NYC!), awed, and, most of all, grateful. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve my area as Delegate and grateful for all the love and support you have shown me during this panel.

Of course, I have mixed feelings about rotating on. You know – just when you get comfortable, it's time for something else. I will miss the close connection with other area officers and committee members, but I look forward to joining the small group of past area delegates who continue to serve Area 17 in any way they can. So when you see me in the back of the room, come and talk story. I love you guys! See you in January.

Mahalo,
Linda McD
Delegate Area 17, Panel 61

CHRISTMAS GREETING 1950

from Doctor Bob and Bill

THIS is the fifteenth Christmas for Alcoholics Anonymous. Seldom has this tired world been more confused divided and distraught. Yet never has the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous been more alive, united and peaceable. God continues to bestow upon us — His long benighted ones — abiding joy and boundless freedom.

What great gifts of Grace!

Do we listen, we can hear Him say "Freely ye have received, freely give - Merry Christmas to you all" We of AA shall take these words to heart as never before — For we, more than most are privileged to know their full meaning!

Spiritual Principles of the 12 Steps

1. Honesty
2. Hope
3. Faith
4. Courage
5. Integrity
6. Willingness
7. Humility
8. Brotherly Love
9. Justice
10. Perseverance
11. Spirituality
12. Service

Spiritual Principles of the 12 Concepts

1. Responsibility
2. Authority
3. Decision
4. Participation
5. Minority Opinion
6. Delegation
7. Balance
8. Trust
9. Leadership
10. Clarity
11. Teamwork
12. Wisdom

Spiritual Principles of the 12 Traditions

1. Unity
2. Purpose
3. Focus
4. Freedom
5. Experience
6. Cooperation
7. Integrity
8. Example
9. Equality
10. Dignity
11. Attraction
12. Principles



Hawaii area 17 address has changed!!!!

**Hawaii Area Committee
1253 S. Beretania Street #2107
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822**

2013 AREA ASSEMBLIES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Orientation Assembly - January - District 4, Windward, Oahu

Committee Meeting - February - District 11, Kehei, Maui

Inform the Delegate - April - District 5, "No Ka Oi", Maui

Committee Meeting - May/June - District 10 - Waikiki, Oahu

Budget Assembly - August - District 2 - Honolulu, Oahu

Optional Committee Meeting - District 6 - Kauai

Optional Assembly - November - District 3 - Leeward, Oahu

fyi

A note from our delegate.....

Aloha Everyone,

While Panel 61 and your service rotation may be coming to an end, A.A. and all of its services continue. Our Fellow members on the east coast have been on my mind heavily. I keep thinking of the devastation to so many areas, and then I think about destroyed meeting sites, literature lost, and coffee pots gone. Naturally, we would like to help all those members and their groups continue, and we can. We support the services of GSO with out 7th Tradition contributions, and GSO is the direct link to restoring literature to those groups. So please, think about those folks, and the next time the "basket" comes to you, put in an extra dollar, quarter, or dime. Also think about the help we would need if the next tsunami wreaks devastation in Hawaii. Your contribution is an investment in A.A.'s future.

*In love and service,
Linda McD
Delegate Area 17, Panel 61*



Congratulations!

International Women's Conference

Host Committee 2014

50TH YEAR CELEBRATION



*Honolulu will be hosting
The 50th-2014*

International Women's Conference

For more information please contact:
Host City Chair- Patti L

1939 A highly effective tool

In an effort to create a lifeline, all A.A. members in Akron write their names in small address books that are then presented to newcomers. In the words of an early member, "They'd say, 'Put a nickel in that telephone and call before you take a drink. If nobody answers, call somebody else.'" Such "telephone therapy" grows to become an effective instrument of sobriety and a major facilitator of sponsorship.

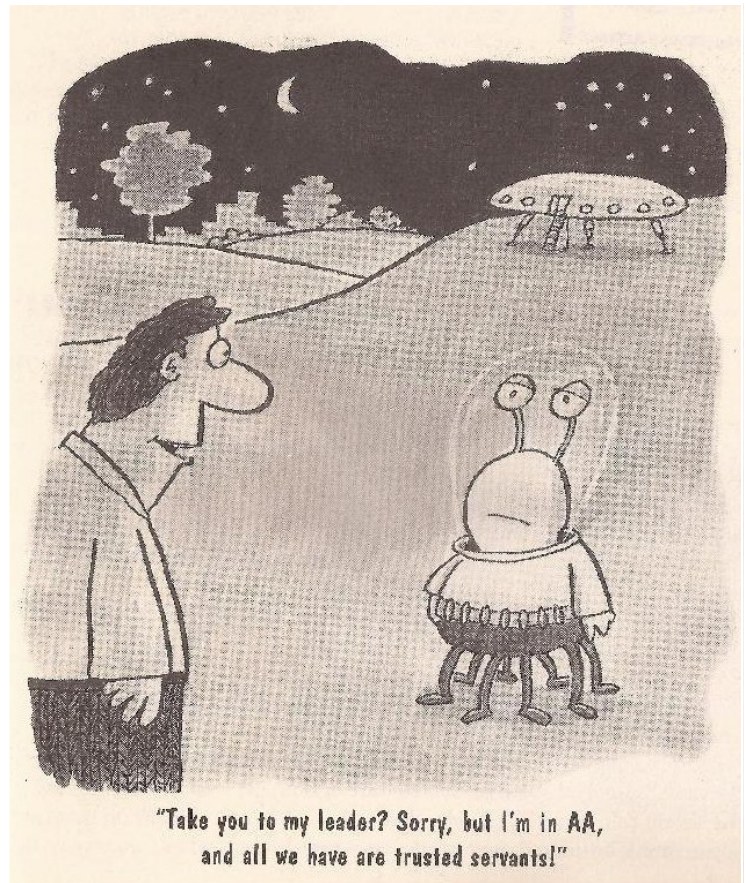


From A.A. 70 Years of Growth

1939 The dawn of sponsorship

Sponsorship-the sharing of an A.A.'s personal experiences with other alcoholics trying to achieve sobriety-grows out of the awareness that loyalty is owed to the A.A. program itself, not individuals. Contributing to sponsorship is the rapid growth and differing viewpoints of groups in Cleveland, where the idea of rotating leadership every six month is developed. Rotation is seen as a way of bolstering identification with the larger program-and, in kind, the concept of sponsorship.

From A.A. 70 Years of Growth



"Take you to my leader? Sorry, but I'm in AA, and all we have are trusted servants!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS



COMING EVENTS . . .

November 17-18 **Election Assembly**
West Hawaii KONA



21-22 Thanksgiving Alcathon
Cameron Center, Maui
Dinner 1pm on Nov 22



22 **THAANKATHON**
"Stone Church", Lihue
Kauai 9:00 am-3:00 pm



December 2 12 Traditions Island Wide Workshop
Alano Club of Lahina 11am

24-24 **Christmas Alcathon**
Cameron Center
Dinner at 1pm on December 25

January

February 14-17 International Women's
Conference-Reno, Nevada

IWCReno2013@yahoo.com

March

April 19-21 Big Island Bash
"Willingness is the Key"
Speakers Convention

WWW.BigIslandBash.com



February 14th-17th 2013

49th International Women's Conference Reno, NV

IWCRENO2013@YAHOO.COM

SAVE THE DATE

AREA 18 WELCOMES



2013

PRAASA
BOISE · IDAHO
MARCH 1st · 2nd · 3rd

BOISE, IDAHO - MARCH 1st, 2nd, 3rd

- Hosted at the beautiful Boise Centre on the Grove
850 W. Front St. Boise, ID
- Many hotels, restaurants, activities near event
visit downtownboise.org for info.
- Translation services will be provided
- Website under construction, stay tuned



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Committee Chair - David F.
2013chair@praasa.org

Program Chair - Candice C.
2013program@praasa.org





Big Island Bash

Speakers Convention

“Willingness is the Key”

April 19-21, 2013

QUALIFYING THE UNQUALIFIED.

Aloha, my name is Bob and I am an alcoholic. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Hawaii Area 17 Alternate Chair for Panel 61. I have to admit, to my chagrin, that the job wasn't quite what I expected. It was more, far more, and that's a very good thing.

In Panel 59 I'd had the good fortune to serve as the first Standing Committee Chair for the Web. Prior to this panel we'd had a Webmaster position, and I'd even served in that capacity in Panel 57, but it was not yet a Standing Committee. I'll be honest, it was hard work and very enjoyable, but it took a fair bit of my time especially in the weeks leading up to Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings.

After that experience, discussions with my service sponsor led to my standing making myself available at the Elections Assembly for Panel 61 officers. I'd read job the descriptions and was pretty sure the body wouldn't be electing me to anything for which I wasn't qualified. How wrong I was.

I was pulled from the hat as Alternate Chair. I'd naively thought that after all the 'action' of serving as Web Chair I'd be getting a bit of a break, at least as far as the time I'd spend serving. I knew how busy our delegates and chairs have been. I knew the amount of work our secretaries have put in keeping records of our doings. But I had it in back of my mind that an 'alternate' wouldn't be nearly as busy. While I can't claim I was busier than any other servant in the Area Structure I was completely wrong about getting 'a break.' I'm all the better for that.

The Area 17 Alternate Chair has quite a few duties. These had been instituted in the past in order to make sure the position is more than a stopgap should the chair not be available. Our chair was only unavailable once in two years, at our 50th Annual Hawaii Convention, and I was tapped to welcome the convention goers on behalf of the Area – an honor to be sure, but a brief one. Thus it was fortunate I had a number of other duties to attend to during the panel.

The alternate chair works with the DCMS hosting both our Area Assemblies and Committee Meetings to make sure equipment is delivered to the correction location, registration fliers are approved and available on time, and that everyone is keeps on track with home stays, transportation, accessibility needs, and the like. It sounds like a big job but in fact our DCMS did such a good job mostly I only needed to give a few encouraging words here and there.

It was the rest of the work that I was to find filled my Panel 61. The alternate chair sits on our Area Finance Committee working closely with our Treasurer in planning the budget, approving expenditures, and carrying the budget to each District to make sure that the groups can make an informed decision. While everyone else at Assemblies and Committee Meetings is enjoying their food and fellowship during lunch, perhaps take a wee break, the treasurer most of all, as well as the rest of the

Finance Committee are hard at work trying to figure out how best to carry the message with the available funds. My hat is off to our Panel 61 treasurer who did a great job keeping us on track.

Having disposed of my lunch times what more could be in store for an Alternate Chair? As it turns out I also became intimately involved with the Annual Hawaii Convention. While it is a separate service body in some ways, the Convention (AHC) maintains both historic and working ties with Hawaii Area 17. Thus it is that both the Alternate Delegate and the Alternate Chair sit as two of six AHC Steering Committee members. The rest of the body is comprised of the current and former AHC Chairs.

It would be wrong to say that we, the Alternates, sit on the body as watchdogs. The servants we worked with are all steeped in AA service and the Traditions. What I think we provide, or at least try to provide, is an 'outside voice.' Like any body, including Hawaii Area 17, it is always a good thing to bring in new blood with viewpoints that aren't caught up in the way things 'have always been done.' As I hadn't ever served the AHC before, though I had attended many over the years, I can assure you I wasn't even aware of the way things 'had always been done.'

It was a two-year long learning experience for me. I'm not sure I brought much to the table, but I took much away with me. I can attest to the hard work and dedication of not just the rest of the Steering Committee but all of the AHC volunteers. I'm going to miss serving the Convention, though of course I'm free, as are you, to volunteer. We'd love to have you.

Besides the regular duties of a Steering Committee member from year to year we took on the challenge of amending Appendix C of the Hawaii Area 17 Structures and Guidelines. Appendix C is the section that deals with how the AHC governs itself, what the responsibilities of each member is, and how, in general, we need to operate. I feel the changes we made brought us more in line with the will of the Area. During my time on the committee, though it was not due to me in any way, we were able to replenish the prudent reserve, lower prices, strengthen our bonds with our AI-Anon friends, and work towards the goal of insuring that members from all islands can participate at all levels.

That was enough to keep me busy throughout the panel and yet I wasn't quite done. While it isn't always the case, it turned out that I was also a sitting member of the Oahu Intergroup. Normally this duty falls to the Area Chair when they are an Oahu resident, but when they aren't, as during this panel, the Alternate Chair is invited to the body. Of course all Oahu DCMS are invited, and I encourage our Panel 63 DCMS on Oahu to learn something about Intergroup by participating.

Prior to this I'd attended exactly one Intergroup meeting several years before as a substitute for my home groups Intergroup Representative. During this panel our

delegate also attended as she could, but in her absence I did my best to deliver a report and keep folks informed.

I was also able, because of the knowledge I have through my regular job, to assist the Oahu Intergroup in replacing a computer system which had ceased working as well as assisting in keeping their website running.

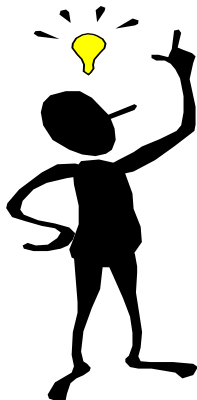
In addition, I sat on an ad hoc committee that revised the Oahu Central Office Manager's job description and revised their By-Laws. That was quite a task but I'm happy to say that my experience at the Area level helped me enormously with this task. I was by no means alone on this committee, we were a true team, but I was able to bring something to table, though again, I took far more away with me.

In the end I learned that I was totally unqualified for the position and yet, somehow, at the end of my two years, I'd somehow become the person Area had wanted when they chose me for the job. I'd been qualified by the job. And, of course, it's now time to turn it over to the next unqualified member who will, in due course, become a qualified alternate chair. I expect that will take about two years.

If I had any advice to give it would be this: let go of any expectations and be willing to face challenges; the job will surprise you. Listen more than you talk, but don't be afraid of voicing your opinion; that's why you were chosen. Ask for help and give it when it is asked of you. In short, treat it like you'd treat any service position in Alcoholics Anonymous. You will be richly rewarded as I have been.

Thank you Hawaii Area 17 for letting me serve as your Alternate Area Chair. You have given me a gift beyond measure.

Bob H.
Panel 61
Outgoing Hawaii Area 17 Alternate Chair



... Antidotes for Resentment

- 1) Pray for the person I resent*
- 2) Forgive the person I resent*
- 3) Ask the person to move in with me (after all, they've been living rent free in my head for a while now)*
- 4) Better Yet, try 1 or 2 again!!!*

Area Chair

Aloha and a huge Mahalo from the bottom of my heart. As I sit here preparing for our last gathering of Panel 61, I am filled with gratitude and wonder. The last two years have flown by for me.

The Orientation Assembly was the beginning of our journey together – many of us with little clue as to what the next two years would bring. I wondered about just what being Area 17's Chair would involve but knew that I would have lots of help from all of you, including previous Delegates and Area Chairs and my fellow officers. So, I set out, asking for God's help and taking my sense of humor along with me.

As we progressed thru the first year of the panel, I gained a better sense of my duties involved. Besides preparing agendas for and chairing our committee meetings and assemblies there were many issues that came up. With a lot of help, they were addressed. I found myself frequently answering – "I don't know but I'll find out and get back to you." I had an opportunity to grow and learn a tremendous amount about myself and how much I had to learn.

The Inventory Assembly was one of my favorites – both in terms of process for Area 17 and in my personal growth. Several areas for improvement were identified and the officers and I took that to heart. The need for better communication throughout the Area – officers, standing committee chairs, DCMs and GSRs – was apparent from reading the inventories. Five other areas for improvement identified were Standing Committees, Archives, Video conferencing for committee meetings, a more user friendly website and more discussion of the Concepts and Traditions. Each of these items was addressed during the remainder of the year.

I remember expressing my hope that when the time came for us to rotate out of our current positions or 'pass the baton' that we would make sure the next runner (trusted servant) had a firm grasp on it before we let go. We will have time on Sunday for roundtable sessions for DCMS, Officers, Standing Committee Chairs and GSRs to meet and pass on suggestions as to what worked and what didn't.

This panel has been, for me, one filled with discovery. Enlightenment, and awe as a result of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I appreciate all the questions and suggestions from each and every one of you. I have come to embrace the expression "I can't, we can."

Mahalo for your support and for a year filled with laughter, love and wonder.

Cheryl N.

Chair

Area 17, Panel 61

Heard in a Meeting...

**"When I was growing up,
the God they 'gave me' was scary!"**

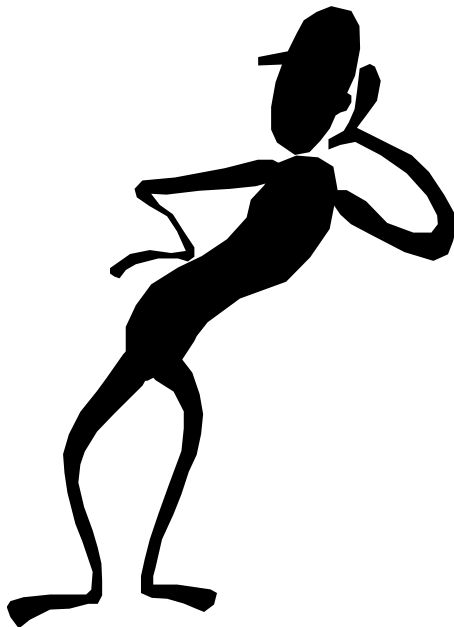
"There is no justification for bad behavior."

**"Your birth date doesn't matter,
your death date doesn't matter--
It's what you do with the dash in between every day."
(written on a tombstone 1946-2001)**

"The older you get, you want every year to count."

**"True happiness and contentment comes from
helping others."**

"Slogans are the 'the handrails' to the steps."



"What you do OUTSIDE the room speaks volumes."

**"Trade your expectation for appreciation,
and your whole world changes in an instant."**

**"From the head to the heart is the longest 18"
from thinking to feeling."**

**"A spiritual awakening is recognizing the truth,
not my thoughts or judgments about it."**

"I've tasted the bliss of God."

Final thoughts . . .

It is with some regret and sadness that panel 61 comes to completion and my commitment as Chair of the Mynah Bird ends. This has been an awesome experience in growth and patience for me, and I want to thank all of you for presenting me with the opportunity to be of service on the area level. This was not about learning a new computer software program; this was about accepting responsibility and stepping up to the plate when I wanted to blame other people for not doing their part to make my job easier. I have grown in my sobriety in a way that I believe no other experience could have taught me.

The mynah bird went to written and web publication five times in 2012. I have attended all of the area 17 committee meetings and assemblies in 2012. I have led roundtable discussions for my committee; I have participated in roundtable discussions at committee meetings for the standing chairs. The exchange of information at both the committee meetings and assemblies was invaluable in my understanding of the function of general service at the area level.

It has taken two years to truly understand the commitment I took. Since there are only guidelines and no “rules”, it was up to my discretion as to how many and when to publish the Mynah Bird. At times I was frustrated because of apathy toward the publication. I asked the question of it's importance to be put on the area “inventory”. It was unanimous that the Mynah Bird continue to be published, as it is the primary outreach to our members on an area level without computers.

By the end of my commitment I can honestly say that I gave up on my “preconceived” idea of what the Mynah Bird content should be. It was this freedom that allowed me to grow in service. I asked myself “What would members with or without computers enjoy knowing about activities on the general service level?” This has been a huge task for me, but I am happy to report that I wish it were a four year commitment!

In love and service,
Kathy S., Mynah Bird Chair

