



# MYNAH BIRD

## HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

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Area Website: [www.area17aa.org](http://www.area17aa.org)

Articles to: [mynahbird@area17aa.org](mailto:mynahbird@area17aa.org)



*Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age*

### **PRAASA REPORT-BACK 2012**

The purposes of the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service of AA.

First, I would like to acknowledge our Hawaii presence of 26 people and thank Elizabeth M, our immediate past delegate and co-chair of the 2011 PRAASA, for showing up to deliver the 2011 minutes of the business meeting and the final financial report. Also on hand, were Jim D., our Hospitals Chair and Diane L. District 3 DCM, both of whom made outstanding presentations. Mahalo also to everyone else who participated by going to the mic and asking thought provoking questions during the "What's On Your Mind" sessions.

I am going to leave most of shared experiences up to others who attended, and share some of the value that I received as a delegate. First of all, the Pacific Region Delegates are some of the most well informed Delegates at the annual General Service Conference directly because of PRAASA. Not only are many of the Conference topics discussed with the general assembly, but also other topics and practical matters are talked about during the two 2-hour delegate roundtables. PRAASA exposes use to ideas, problems, and solutions other areas are facing, and, therefore, helps us to be better service leaders, partly because most answers come out of the collective group conscience and because discussions can trigger understanding and acceptance.

My personal PRAASA experience was, of course, completely different this year from last year when Hawaii was host to the Assembly. First of all, I was very sick before, during, and after PRAASA, so I stuck with the essentials and didn't socialize much. Shortly after arrival, I was informed that there would be a "Second Year Panel," for which I was unprepared. I had no choice but to trust in my Higher Power for the right words to come. And they did! Just amazing.

Part of PRAASA is the business meeting, which is conducted usually by a past trustee and during which everyone in attendance is eligible to vote. I always look forward to the business meeting because I love to see Roberts Rules of Order in action and I am inspired by the passion for A.A. I see in others. This year there was an interesting proposal made regarding the rotation of PRAASA host sites. As you may know, each year the PRAASA location is chosen four years out by a bid process made during the General Service Conference. The proposal is to set up a regular rotation of areas based on the fifteen areas in the Pacific Region so that conceptually each area would host PRAASA every 15 years. After a motion and second, there was lively discussion followed by a vote in favor of the motion, a motion and second to reconsider which passed, more discussion followed by a motion and second to table the motion to next year. The PRAASA Delegate Advisory Board will take the proposal into consideration and present various plans for Assembly discussion for PRAASA 2013. If a motion passes, it would not be effective until 2017 at the earliest. I welcome your comments and questions on this important issue.

Once again I thank you for the privilege of serving Alcoholics Anonymous, and I hope to see many of you in Boise, Idaho on March 1-3 for PRAASA 2013.

In love & service,  
Linda McD  
Delegate Panel 61, Area 17



*COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 19, 2012*

*TRI-ISLAND DISTRICT MAUI*

**Chair****2012 PRAASA report**

**Aloha. I want to start off by thanking Area 17 from the bottom of my heart for sending me to the 2012 Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, aka PRAASA, in Bellevue, WA. This is now my fifth PRAASA and although each one is different, I always come away filled with gratitude for the life I have as a result of this program; with a fire for doing everything in my power to stay sober and help others achieve sobriety and a recommitment to 'practicing these principles in all my affairs.'**

**As each new PRAASA starts, I am reminded by how I felt at the end of the previous one - like I was walking in the sunlight of the spirit, full of faith, light and love. As a good alcoholic, I want to feel that instantly again. But, what I experience instead, is a slow steady building of so many feelings – gratitude, identifying, trust, delight, tears, humility, open mindedness and yes, faith, light and love.**

**On Friday and Saturday evenings, I attended roundtables for Area Chairs and Alternate Chairs. Since this is the second year of the panel, I saw friends I made last year as well as new Chairs and Alternate Chairs for Panel 62. I volunteered to be of service at PRAASA and was asked to be the moderator for the Friday night roundtable. So, since I wasn't totally sure what was expected of me, I did something I never did when drinking (but occasionally do now in sobriety) – I reviewed the instructions they sent. Here's some of what I learned.**

- \* Area 17 is the only Area to use home stays regularly. Most areas people drive to assemblies and stay at hotels. Area funds the lodging.**
- \* On Trusted Servants who leave Assemblies early or don't attend – 'There will be no seat for them in the big meeting in the sky.'**
- \* DCMCs are used in heavily populated areas. In Area 09, which includes LA, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, some Districts have 150 – 200 meetings. The DCMCs help the DCMs in these Districts.**
- \* One chair commented that he tried to follow the one instruction he got as Area chair – LISTEN.**

**Although I learned from and was touched by everyone's comments, here are some of the more memorable ones.**

- \* My sponsor told me in early sobriety I could complicate a glass of water.**
- \* A past regional trustee – "I've been called a "has been." When I went to my first meeting, I was a "never was."**
- \* We have no big shots, we have no little shots, we have just one shot and then we're all shot.**
- \* A trustee from Japan related how, in 1988, she traveled on a train to get to a city where they had one meeting a week.**
- \* Very few of us know how much we need to know in order to realize how little we do know.**
- \* "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." by Albert Einstein.**

**Mahalo nui loa.**

**Cheryl N.**

**Chair**

**Area17, Panel 61**



## *MORE NOTES FROM PRAASA 2012...*

### Reflections on PRAASA 2012 – Diane L., DCM Leeward District 3

What a privilege to be able to attend PRAASA 2012 on March 2-4 in Bellevue, Washington. There were over 1000 people registered, with 26 attending from Hawaii. Other attendees were from Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and BC Yukon. There were 248 DCM's or DCMC's and alternates; and 240 GSR's and alternate GSR's. In addition, there were 101 Area Committee members and officers; 73 Delegates - current, alternate, and past; and 12 Trustees, current and past. All in all, it was a very impressive group of individuals in service to A.A. There were several translators mainly for Spanish speaking participants, as well as individuals who did "signing" for the deaf.

The agenda for the weekend included several panel presentations, as well as roundtables and the PRAASA Business Meeting. I had put my name on a list of volunteers for the event, and was contacted and asked to present on the Literature Panel 4 with my topic being Corrections. I was sure they'd made a mistake since I didn't feel like I knew anything about the topic, but I said "yes" (as I was taught to do in A.A.) and went about doing the research. After speaking with our delegate, past delegate, and two Area committee members as well as an individual who runs a program for recovering women at the Women's Correctional Community Center in Kailua, Oahu, I felt I had something to share. The panel was well received, and I, once again, was reminded that we are all given the opportunity to grow in understanding when we say "yes" to service.

Ideas that caught my attention during the weekend included:

It's up to A.A. sponsors to help sponsees understand the Traditions and Concepts.

Those of us in General Service can share with enthusiasm about the benefits of being in service.

Individuals there for their first PRAASA had been told to "go to the mic" during open sharing to experience being a part of the weekend – it was inspiring to watch.

At the business meeting, a proposal was put forth to rotate PRAASA locations instead of having Areas bid for the opportunity to have the event in their Area. A lively discussion took place, and the motion was tabled until next year giving the PRAASA Delegate Advisory Board the opportunity to study this alternative.

One participant summarized the event by saying "Here at PRAASA, more than anywhere else, is where I see A.A.'s past walking with A.A.'s future" – and it was impressive to see this concept come alive, especially as we listened to the Saturday night speaker, George D., who has been an integral part of A.A. General Service for many years – and then through the lively contributions of service newcomers on panels, roundtables, and at the open sharing sessions. It was truly an exceptional opportunity to experience service at its finest.



The Pacific Region Delegate began this year's PRAASA by expressing how amazed he felt when walking into a room of alcoholics realizing that here was a group of people who had character defects similar to his own and yet when they come together remarkable things occur.

In ruminating about this, I have come to the conclusion that that is exactly what happens in every meeting we attend, and that it is expressed several places in our literature, although perhaps in different terms. No matter; it is what I experienced this year in Seattle.

For the past three years I have been afforded the opportunity to attend PRAASA and sit in the back of the room soaking up the knowledge and experience of a wide range of alcoholics. It has been wonderfully educational and enlightening.

This year my perspective was changed! I was asked to share on a panel on Saturday morning – Safety in AA and the Fifth Tradition. I just had an opportunity to listen to myself because our DCM bought the tapes and the fear is excruciatingly evident in my voice!!

In reviewing what I said, it really echoes what Rod said when he began the weekend: when we come together as a group and share intimately with one another, great things happen – we all grow. And even the worst of us can come to grips with some of our most hideous defects when we trust the fellowship and allow others to participate if even so slightly in our lives! It has certainly happened to me and I have been privileged to watch it in others.

But it is not a singular phenomenon; it has to take place within the group. And if we strive to be consistent with our traditions, if the GROUP is truly reaching out to the newcomers, predators would find much less operating room in our midst because we would ALL be watching out for the newcomer, and we would ALL be helping our fellow sufferer confront his selfish and self-centered motives.

Simply stated, we just have to learn to love each other and each day of my sobriety affords me one more opportunity to do it better. Thank you all for this wonderful chance for a brand new life!

Jim D, Chair , Hospitals, Area 17

### PRAASA 2012

The first day of March found me winging to the mainland to attend my first PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly). I was awash in anticipation, amidst trying to practice tolerance in the face of the inhumane process that airline travel has become. And, yes, even expectations were rearing their pesky heads and I simply tried to notice that they were there and try not to pour any gasoline on them.

What I was not expecting, after almost eighteen years of sobriety marked with consistent service, thanks to three very service-centered sponsors, was such a strong shot of spiritual juice, one that brought me to tears more than once. I am not unaware of the tremendous amount of work that must be done at the district, national and international levels to ensure that we can continue to perform our primary purpose here at the group level. However I was unprepared for the scope of the Assembly that played out before my eyes.

There were 1,100-plus of us scurrying around the Hyatt Bellevue in the Seattle area, elbow to elbow with a Microsoft convention (they had better food) and all of us there to work on issues relating to the Fellowship we love. With no idea what to expect, I eagerly tore into my registration packet, and seeing the packed schedule, realized I had not a clue as to what any of it meant. Fortunately, I had been taught to trust the process when I worked the 12 Steps, and this, I could tell, was to be another "trust opportunity." When I was asked to do this piece, the Mynah Bird's editor told me she didn't want the typical who, what, when, where journalistic take on the Assembly. She was more interested in how the experience affected me on a heart level. The first emotional experience in this completely foreign environment was, as always for me, fear. "I'm not doing it right; they're going to find out I'm a fraud; where the hell's the exit" was the song, still the default reaction for me.

The difference in my life now is that I can be in fear and still do the next right thing, knowing the fear will pass and that I am exactly where I need to be. So attend the panels, keep my ears open, and look to see where I can be of service was my agenda.

The panels were terrific, for their topics (ie. Safety in AA; AA in the Digital Age; Diversity-Are We Inclusive?; The Seventh Tradition), but especially for the participants, all of whom were well prepared and who spoke the Language of the Heart eloquently.

After each panel the microphones were opened to all of us. Certainly there were hot-button issues and disagreements among the attendees, but without fail these were handled with mutual respect and a sense of near-reverence for opposing views. It was absolutely palpable, that sense that we were being guided by a collective Higher Power which allowed us to check our egos at the door. Such beautiful anarchy!

Several highlights shine brightly a month later. Our region elected the first Native American Trustee (AA's 'Board of Directors'), Rod from Arizona, an achievement that was a long time coming, but one that we can be justly proud of. Many panel members spoke of their 'service sponsors', while Rod admitted he needed a 'clothes sponsor' for his new duties. George, one of three (!) G.S.O. managers in attendance celebrated 52 years of sobriety with a hilarious talk, based on his "awesome humility." Hawaii's own Delegate Linda McD. was on-stage expertly answering questions from attendees.

The panel that affected me most profoundly was the last one, simply entitled Past Trustees Panel. These former Pacific Region Trustees were asked to speak on Spirituality, which, as one panelist put it, "pretty much means anything we want to talk about." What it became was some very wise members of our Fellowship letting us know what specifically concerned them about our fellowship as we move ahead.

One spoke on the dangers of professionalism in our service work, relating a big piece of advice his service sponsor had taught him - never be away from home more than two weekends in a row, because your family and job take precedence. Service is not a second job. How we present our fellowship to newcomers was a theme frequently mentioned throughout the Assembly. It is all about how we practice our primary purpose. The Trustee who affected me the most powerfully spoke to this topic. As she put it so well, "I'd much rather have the wrong person come into our meeting, than ever excluding the right person from our meeting." As Ruth finished my eyes filled with tears and all I could feel was my heart opening just a bit to let a little more light in. My deepest thanks to the Koloa Aloha group on Kauai for sending me to the Assembly.

Jim S., GSR, Koloa Aloha



April 2012

**2012 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

***Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare***

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 0:00 - 0:00 p.m.

Participants are invited to share on the workshop topic selected by the 2011 Conference, "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare." The questions listed below are intended to facilitate a full and fruitful sharing session.

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a greater whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." – *Tradition One (Long Form)*

1. How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?
2. How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. meetings safe?
3. In keeping with Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as:
  - \* Conduct that disrupts the meeting
  - \* Illegal activity
  - \* Inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable new members (e.g. "13 Stepping")
  - \* Emergencies (injury/accident/fire/etc.)



## Inventory Action Items

**Mahalo to all of you for participating in the Inventory Assembly. One theme ran throughout your responses – we need to do a better job of communicating and educating.**

- \* Area officers, DCMs & Standing Committee chairs need to check Area emails frequently and respond to emails in a timely manner.**
- \* All of us would benefit from listening and asking questions if we are unclear.**
- \* DCMs are responsible for helping GSRs prepare for Area assemblies.**
- \* Area 17 could improve on orientation and education of new GSRs. And, outgoing GSRs can pass on their experience, strength, hope and GSR materials to new GSRs.**

**You identified five areas for improvement and needing action.**

### **1. Standing Committees**

- \* Better communication and more info on what the committees do requested. Standing committee chairs will do a presentation at Budget Assembly.**

### **2. Archives**

- \* Develop a plan for review of Archives to reduce costs and make them more accessible**

### **3. Video conferencing for committee meetings**

- \* Need someone to step up and research requirements for all aspects of this. What is needed to set this up so officers, committee chairs and DCMS from all four islands can communicate via video?**

### **4. Website**

- \* Webmaster will do a website review at Inform the Delegate Assembly.**
- \* Request for making website more user friendly and helping everyone to find what they need**

### **5. Concepts and Traditions**

- \* Request for more discussion of Concepts and Traditions.**
- \* There will be a panel discussion by past delegates at the Inform the Delegate Assembly.**

**I appreciate the feedback and will do everything I can to help address the issues so that we in Area 17 can continue our efforts to reach the still suffering alcoholic.**

**Mahalo,  
Cheryl N.  
Chair  
Area 17, Panel 61**

## AREA 17 DELEGATE REPORT

February 18, 2012

This year, as always, delegates will attend the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference with the common belief that A.A. as a whole is still responsible for maintaining our society known as Alcoholics Anonymous. We do this by carrying the conscience of our areas and participating in the closest thing that A.A. has to a group conscience. Our primary purpose this weekend is to reach a consensus on some of the Conference agenda items. It is the people who are here this weekend who can make a contribution to the future of A.A. because the items that we will discuss, along with all the items on the Conference Agenda, comprise the business of A.A. for the coming year. If you do not take anything with you from this assembly, know that by participating in this assembly, you are participating in the business of A.A., which is how can we do a better job of reaching the alcoholic who suffers from this disease. In addition to the agenda items assigned for presentation this weekend, we will discuss the workshop topic: "Safety in A.A.: Our Common Welfare." So picture this: each of the 93 areas in the US and Canada is having a pre-conference assembly based on the same material that we have. That means that hundreds of A.A. members are contributing their thoughts and ideas to A.A. as a whole through their delegate. That's unity!

Shortly after the February Committee Meeting, the conference members received one more agenda item. The following is a motion from the General Service Board that will be presented to the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference: *"The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's independent voice. The plan may, among other things, address the separate corporate existence of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference for approval prior to implementation."*

As a result of an advisory action that came out of last year's Conference, a Shared Resources Committee was formed. However, its scope is limited. It is not equipped to deal with some of the challenges and concerns of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. that the Board has been discussing:

- \* The universal migration in the publishing industry from print to electronic magazine publications.
- \* the General Service Board's fiduciary responsibility to the Fellowship in further authorizations to the A.A. Grapevine's use of the Reserve Fund to meet operational needs,
- \* the A.A. Grapevine's projections for 2013 and 2014 estimate further draw downs totaling over \$498,000 unless policies and operations can be changed,
- \* the increasing focus on A.A. Grapevine's overall welfare has led to a growing sense of disunity in the Fellowship that has proven to be a distraction in fulfilling our primary purpose.

The A.A. Grapevine is an important resource for carrying the A.A. message. Your General Service Board seeks only to find the best possible solutions for its future.

The motion originates from the General Service Board and as in past situations, will not be sent through the Conference committee. Rather, Ward B. Ewing, Chair of the GSB, will present the motion during his report early in the Conference week. The motion will be addressed only after the Conference Committee Reports and before any Floor Actions.

There was quite a bit of heated discussion regarding the above motion in the Delegate Roundtables during PRAASA. You know, A.A.'s love a good scandal/conspiracy, and your delegates are no exception. In the end, we came to see that the motion is a proposal to develop a plan and is being presented to us for practical and spiritual reasons: to reach a consensus and to promote unity. Last year, the Conference spoke loudly and clearly that we want the GSB to have greater oversight over the A.A. Grapevine Inc., and that is exactly what is happening.



Other news from A.A.W.S.:

International – A Haitian-Creole translation of the Big Book is moving to completion. Thirty-one delegates have registered so far for the World Service Conference to be held in NY in October. (Please see page S71 of the *A.A. Service Manual* for definition of World Service Conference.) A member is helping us establish firm contact with A.A. in Iran; and a worker at a refugee camp in Malawi is setting up A.A. meetings for the 5,500 people living there. A.A. has been growing in Uganda with a translation of the Big Book into Luganda just on the horizon.

Corrections – The Corrections Correspondence Service linked at least 181 male inmates and 59 female inmates to outside volunteers in the last three months on 2011.

Ebooks – The first two A.A.W.S. eBooks were launched on a new A.A.W.S. Online Store. They are working to ensure the smooth operation of the system and sales simultaneous with the development of an App for Android and iPad. The IT group and Publications Department are addressing post-launch corrections, adjustments and communications. The next two eBooks planned for release are *Daily Reflections* and *Living Sober*. During the period of 12/12/11 through 1/23/12, eBig Book sales were 1,342 and 1,208 for *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* for a total of 2,550 eBooks sold.

Daily Reflections is now available on aa.org in all three languages. The page is updated daily. The new page can be reached by clicking on the “Daily Reflections” link on the upper left corner of the home page.

International Convention – The theme for the 2015 International will be “80 Years – Happy, Joyous, and Free.” Notifications about the Convention, including housing and registration information, will be mailed out and posted on G.S.O.'s A.A. Website as we get closer to the Convention. Until then, watch for articles in *Box 4-5-9*, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the US and Canada listed with G.S.O. In 2020, the Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan.

#### Openings at A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Senior Editor for The Grapevine, Inc. – for responsibilities and qualifications, please see Spring 2012 *Box 4-5-9*. Resumes along with a cover letter are due by May 31, 2012 to [resumes@aagrapevine.org](mailto:resumes@aagrapevine.org).

Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee – current trustees, delegates, and directors submit candidates' professional resumes by July 31, 2012. For further information, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.

A.A.W.S. Non-trustee Directors – Two non-trustee director positions will open following the 2013 GSC. Interested A.A. members should submit resumes by July 1, 2012. For qualifications and job requirements, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.

A.A. Grapevine Non-trustee Directors – Vacancies may become available following the 2013 GSC. Resumes should be submitted by May 31, 2012. For qualifications and job requirements, please see Spring issue of *Box 4-5-9* or inquire at G.S.O.

Class B (alcoholic) Trustees – Three new trustees will be elected at the 2013 GSC. Elections will be for the East Central and Southeast Regions and for trustee-at-large/US. Resumes for trustee positions are submitted by delegates and are due by January 1, 2013. A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs; and because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and the willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole. It is also important that trustee candidates understand the commitment of time required. Trustees are expected to attend three quarterly board weekends, with meetings often scheduled from Thursday afternoon through Monday morning, and the GSC which lasts for one week. Often trustees are asked to attend a Regional Forum weekend. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards, which meet more frequently than the GSB.

Upcoming Event – The Pacific Regional Forum will be held on September 14-16 at the Westmark Hotel Fairbanks in Fairbanks, Alaska. Please plan to attend this very special event and meet some of the folks who work at GSO. This is an open forum where all are invited to share their experience, strength, and hope – and questions.

Submitted with love and service,  
Linda McD  
Delegate Area 17, Panel 61  
[delegate@area17aa.org](mailto:delegate@area17aa.org)



## Bedside Matters

I looked back over previous issues in order to prepare for this column, and I would like to report on a few things:

- We have raised some consciousness about outreach in the hospitals; it has been mentioned in two DCM reports and we are developing contact info for at least two Intergroup offices.
- We still haven't developed a vehicle of communication for our committee between assemblies.
- The lull in activity I have experienced is further proof of the correctness of combining our committee with the Treatment Facilities committee.

Because of the above, and to align Area17 more closely with the General Service Office, I would like to propose the following:

Article 3.7 (H.) be rewritten as follows:

"H. Treatment Settings: Coordinates the service work of A.A. groups and individuals who carry the message to alcoholics in hospitals, clinics, treatment facilities and other institutions where alcoholics receive attention from medical and other professionals for their diverse restrictions which may or may not limit their participation in meetings outside of the restrictive setting."

AND THAT Article 3.7(K.) be deleted and subsequent subsections be appropriately re-lettered.

We need only look to the experience of the founders of Alcoholics Anonymous to realize the impact treatment settings have on the suffering alcoholic and the hope is that this change will afford us a more flexible response to the changes we know are coming in health delivery.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve,

Jim D, Chair  
Hospitals, Area 17

**fyi**

**"The General Service Conference supports the General Service Board's development of a plan to restructure the current Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structure, while retaining the Grapevine's Independent editorial voice. The plan, may, among other things address the separate corporate existence of Alcoholics Anonymous Grapevine, Inc., as well as issues of governance and operations. The plan will be designed to increase unity, better reach and connect the Grapevine to the broader Fellowship while addressing financial stability. The plan will be submitted to the 63rd General Service Conference for Approval prior to implementation."**

(quoted from a letter to the General Service Delegates from **Ward B. Ewing, Chair, General Service Board**)

# Announcements



## ***COMING EVENTS 2012...***

### April

14-15 Inform the Delegate Assembly [assembly@area17aa.org](mailto:assembly@area17aa.org)  
Church of Holy Nativity, Honolulu

19-22 **25th Annual International Men's Conference**  
Las Vegas, Nevada [www.iaamclasvegas.org](http://www.iaamclasvegas.org)

20-22 24th Annual Big Island Bash, Big Island, HI  
Kona Coast Sheraton Keauhou Bay [www.BigIslandBash.com](http://www.BigIslandBash.com)

### May

17-20 Tri-State Round Up  
Riverside Resort Hotel & Casino  
Laughlin, Nevada [www.tristate-roundup.com](http://www.tristate-roundup.com)

31-Ju 3 Maui Fest VIII  
Makena Beach & Golf Resort, Maui [www.mauifest.org](http://www.mauifest.org)

### September

28-30 HICYPAA  
Camp Naue, Kauai [hicypaa2012@kauaiaa.org](mailto:hicypaa2012@kauaiaa.org)

### October

26-28 **Annual Kauai Men's Retreat** [www.kauaiaa.org](http://www.kauaiaa.org)

### November

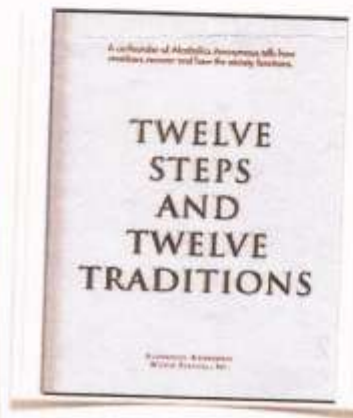
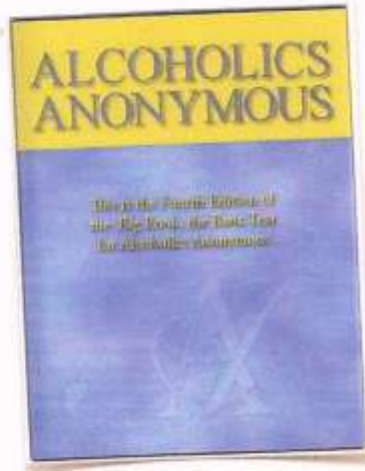
1-4 51st Annual Hawaii Convention  
Freedom From Bondage [www.hawaii-convention.com](http://www.hawaii-convention.com)

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## I am responsible...

*I am responsible when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.*

In my second year as your current Delegate, I have a new perspective on our responsibility pledge. Think for a moment about “anyone, anywhere.” I now understand that phrase to refer to my next door neighbor, the homeless guy in the park, the housewife in Middletown, U.S.A., and the struggling alcoholic in Tangiers. But how can I be ready to take the hand of all those people? By belonging to a home group and participating in the General Service Structure. For it is through our worldwide services that every hand can be taken and led to the safety of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In addition, our General Service Structure, allows each member of A.A. that belongs to a group with an active General Service Representative (GSR), a voice about how our message reaches everyone. We decide what official A.A. literature to develop and print, we decide how to better reach professionals who may first encounter the suffering alcoholic, and, through our services, we make A.A., as a unified whole, available in over 160 countries. There are many more services made possible through our service structure. You may be thinking that being sober and going to meetings is working fine for you and why ought you get involved. You may think A.A. is just fine.

My answer to two-fold: First, as stated in Tradition Four, *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.* Note: we say each group is *autonomous* not *independent*. In fact, we are interdependent. Consequently, when I join a group/meeting that does not have a GSR and, therefore, does not participate in the General Service Structure, not only do I not have any say in the business of A.A., but I am putting that responsibility off onto everyone else, so I am affecting other groups and, therefore, A.A. as a whole. Second, by having no voice, an A.A. member does not practice all three legacies: Recovery, Service, and Unity. We recover from a seemingly hopeless state of mind, we serve those who still suffer by carrying the universal A.A. message, and we participate in order to assure the continuance of our Society. You may think that your group does not need general service, but general service needs you.

I close with this: *Declaration of Unity: This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; To keep our fellowship united, for on A.A. unity depend our lives; And the lives of those to come.*”

To learn more about general service, talk with those who serve, come to an assembly, come to one of the Delegate reports coming to an island near you following the General Service Conference April 22-28. Join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship if the Spirit.

# Heard in a Meeting...

**"Alone in your head is a bad neighborhood."**

**"Practice blackjack everyday; steps 3, 7, 11."**

**"I'm here because I'm not all there."**

**"AA is a program of self-reflection, truth and honesty."**

**"Guilt is a self centered emotion."**

**"It's not my job to inform them about their way of thinking."**

**"I used to drink not to think."**

**"Suicide is an act of selfishness."**

**"I don't know what my future holds, but I know who holds my future."**

