

2013 Year in Review – Area Chair

Aloha and thank you for letting me serve. For me 2013 has been a year of change in my capacity as your Area Chair. First and foremost I've had to learn a new job. Fortunately I've had excellent examples to follow in our past chair and have made use them throughout the year to guide me. Any failings on my part are mine and not because I didn't have good advice.

As my job is simple and consists mostly of arranging things so your voice, the voice of our area groups, can be heard effectively, I've had to learn how to write and implement an agenda, how to listen without injecting my own opinion, and time management skills on a group level. Whether I have been successful isn't necessarily for me to decide, but I can attest that I have learned a lot.

My own goals as chair have been modest as I do not feel it is my position to make major changes on my own. Changes should come from the Fellowship as a whole. However, having worked with both our Young People in AA and our special friends in the Fellowship of Al-Anon, I felt it was important to bring their voices, in report – not decision, to our gatherings. To that end I have invited representatives of Al-Anon and the various Hawaii YPAAS to bring a report to us at our assemblies, and in the coming year where appropriate, to our committee meetings.

I feel this has been very successful and has led to my attending Oahu based YPAA meetings and learning more about these great services groups. Though I can take no credit, it was gratifying to learn that Hawaii will finally host WACYPA in 2015. The Fellowship of Al-Anon has also begun to invite representatives from Area to their assemblies and I cannot help but feel that this cross-pollination of information benefits us all.

Other activities:

1. Attended PRAASA 2013 in Boise, Idaho. While attending I offered a friendly amendment to a motion on archives and blogged daily on my experiences and what I learned and heard.
2. Assisted the Annual Hawaii Convention in using technology to save money through the use of limited video conferencing to “bring” the Alternate Delegate and Alternate Chair for steering committee meetings instead of flying them in at high cost. It's important to note that this does not replace all fact to face meetings which are very important but still does represent a definite cost savings.
3. Wrote a letter of recognition of HIGYPAA in support of their successful WACYPA bid.
4. Worked closely with Oahu's Intergroup where both I and our Delegate attend monthly meetings at the request of the Oahu Intergroup.
5. Met regularly with our Delegate and did my best to keep him informed.

While I realize that I have at times fallen short of my own expectations I feel that 2013 was a good year and I look forward to a 2014 filled with more opportunities to learn about AA Service.

Thank you again for letting me service,

Bob H – Panel 63 Hawaii Area 17 Chair