

Cooperation with the Professional Community – year-end Report

Mahalo for letting me be of service as the CPC chair for Panel 63. I have really enjoyed being a part of Hawaii Area 17 and cooperating with the professional community is very important to me. As with many members of Alcoholics Anonymous, I came to AA through the court system.

At times I thought that I could have done more as the CPC chair, but as with all of our inventory work as members of AA, we are taught to look at the good things as well as things that we could have done better.

January:

The start of a new panel!! I met with GSR's whose had been chosen by lot to be contacts for the CPC committee. We shared a little about ourselves and any experience that we may have had with the professional community. Some have continued to be on the CPC committee and have been steady volunteers when I needed help.

We also got a request from GSO to staff an information booth at the American Psychological Association convention to be held in Honolulu in August 2013 – I accepted and we had a project!!!

February:

At the committee meeting I announced that AA would be staffing a booth at the APA convention in August and that I would be needing volunteers.

March:

I attended PRAASA and was honored to be able to make a presentation. I also participated in the CPC roundtable. I was counting on receiving the notes that were being taken during the round-table, but unfortunately they were not received by the PRAASA committee and were not sent out – I am attending PRAASA this March and will take more notes on my own!!

CPC was active on Maui. Several of us met a few times to plan presentations to the court community – parole, probation and judges. We have many drug court clients and others who are referred to AA or are required to attend AA meetings and we thought that it was important to let the court system that we want to cooperate and at the same time let them know more about Alcoholics Anonymous.

April:

Maui members made a presentation to parole officers about Alcoholics Anonymous. We had thought it would be a short presentation and then we would leave. We were very pleased that we were able to answer many questions about the program of Alcoholics Anonymous – what AA is and just as important what AA is not. I believe that many of the problems that AA on Maui has experienced with court clients result from a lack of information about AA.

May:

We made our second presentation on Maui. This time we met with the judges. We spent over an hour answering questions about AA.

I made contact with AA members on Oahu and started recruiting members to staff the AA booth at the APA convention. Area 17's immediate past CPC chair, Susan, was an excellent resource -- something that I have learned in AA "if you don't know how to do something, ask for help".

June – July – Quiet time for CPC

August:

We staffed a booth at the APA convention. Mahalo to Area 17 for paying my way to Oahu so that I could participate in person. See a more detailed report on the experience in the October edition of the Mynah Bird.

September:

On Maui we made our third presentation to court professionals – this time to the probation department. The experience was similar to other presentations – hopefully we have given information that will help court clients become active members of AA – and not just interested in getting a card signed.

On Oahu we got a request to assist with DUI classes. I met with a member from Oahu who was interested in getting speakers and coordinating with the courts.

At our Budget Assembly roundtable discussion, we brainstormed ideas for areas where CPC could be effective. One suggestion that came out of our discussion was how to approach Human Resources departments of labor unions. I volunteered to write to GSO for information. I will bring the response to the January Assembly!

November:

I set up a table at the Hawaii State Convention. I had literature available – not too many takers, but I had a good time talking to members who stopped by to say hi!

I believe that AA participated in Project D.A.T.E. as an outside resource to help the homeless community. I did not personally participate in the Thanksgiving event, but received information about it from Ken.

Future plans – meet with others at the Inventory Assembly, meeting on Maui with health care professionals (contact has been made, but no date set) and attend PRAASA in March and take good notes at the CPC roundtable.