



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

P65 Issue #3 April, 2015



Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org



More info available at aa.org

UPCOMING AREA ASSEMBLIES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS for Panel 65

(Please purchase tickets early and use the Area's code for Hawaiian Air if you purchase air travel from Hawaiian. It can be found at Area17aa.org)

April 11 & 12 -- Inform the Delegate
Maui No Ka Oi District #5

June 6 – Committee Meeting
Puna District #12

October 3 & 4 – Budget Assembly
Central No. Shore District #9

January, 2016 – Inventory Assembly
Kauai #6

February, 2016 Committee Meeting
Tri-Island District #13

Inform the Delegate Assembly
West Hawaii District #8

May/June Committee Meeting
Waianae District #17

Budget Assembly
Kihei District # 11

Committee Meeting
Leeward District #3

Election Assembly
Honolulu District #2

CONTRIBUTION MAILING ADDRESSES:

Hawaii Area Committee
1253 Beretania St., #2107
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822
(Please include District # and Group name)

General Service Board
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(Please include group service # and group name)

This, too, is service to AA!

From Waianae to Layton, Utah – One Member’s Experience

My first PRAASA! I didn't know what to expect!

I first walked in to the Davies Convention Center and I saw a sea of suits; I definitely wasn't in Waianae anymore!

At first I felt like, “I don't belong here, I'm out of place, and what have I got to offer?”

So I sat down with the group of friends I made from Maui and I began listening to the panels. It was very exciting listening to these people who are all fired up for service and their recovery.

By the second day I felt more comfortable and more like, “Yes, I do belong here!” I also got so fired up I felt the need to get up and I shared at the mic in front of 1200 people, and how I felt is AA carrying the message!

I also learned how important the GSR's are to the home groups and it is my responsibility as DCM to make sure that they are well informed so that they can carry the message back to their groups.

I hope to continue in my service with this fire and excitement that I got from PRAASA and to carry it to my district. I'm looking forward to next year already!

Cindy K DCM

Also heard at PRAASA...

There's a real need to review the later chapters in the book . . .

The Fellowship is in good hands . . . yours!

This pamphlet might be good for educating the fellowship!

The best way to be a servant in AA is to ask for direction from those we serve.

Keeping an open mind and an open heart will help us navigate through our problems.

Give people the right to be wrong!

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION TOPICS for the 2015 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE: OUR COMMON WELFARE THROUGH GRATITUDE IN ACTION

- Diversity in A.A. – Our Heritage of Inclusion
- Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in Our Home Group
- Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology
- Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead

PRAASA 2015 (and next year in Spokane!)

The CONFERENCE

S N O I T C E R R O C R A U L
 S M O J T A P S T E C C E N W
 H E H I G R T C R E N I F M E
 N G V E T P U U G I O L G Y M
 B D N I E A T S N R I B R R H
 T D I C H A M V T D T U A O F
 A E N V R C E R R E N P P S I
 U O G E E N R A O H E W E I N
 C G T D T R O A O F V S V V A
 C I K O U B S E L W N Z I D N
 L U R P K B L I N N O I N A C
 Q Y N O I T C A T A C H E X E
 C O M M I T T E E Y S T A F F
 T N E M T A E R T T C X W U V
 O J Y L R O T A T I O N P A W

ACTION
 ADVISORY
 AGENDA
 ARCHIVES
 BOARD
 BUDGET
 COMMITTEE
 CONCEPTS
 CONVENTION
 CORRECTIONS
 CPC

DIVERSITY
 FINANCE
 GRAPEVINE
 INFORMATION
 INVENTORY
 LITERATURE
 PUBLIC
 ROTATION
 STAFF
 TREATMENT
 TRUSTEES

FROM THE EDITOR. . . .

The Mynah Bird is the newsletter of Area 17 and therefore *your* newsletter where you are encouraged to “share [your] experience, strength and hope with each other that [we] may solve [our] common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.” To this end it will be the policy during this panel to include all submissions which highlight your groups’ efforts in achieving our common purpose.

As our Pacific Regional Delegate shared with us at the orientation assembly, one of best things he was told when he became a delegate was “You have something to give,” and I believe it true of all of us.

Our fellowship in Hawaii is strong and indeed we have things to give. Please take a few minutes to ponder what you have been given through the experience of your group, jot it down and send it to mynahbird@area17aa.org. We will make every effort to include it in coming issues.

Thank you in advance!

PRAASA REPORT FROM THE AREA CHAIR

Coleen A., Hawaii Area 17 Chair

The Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly was held in Layton, Utah the first weekend in March 2015. The General Service Conference theme of “Celebrating 80 years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation of Our Future” was the theme for the conference, and the basis

for 10 Panels of presentations lasting 1-1½ hours each. (Area Highlights, Leadership in A.A., Carrying the Message, Traditions, Service, Inventory, Communication, Recovery Today, Past Trustees, Ask-It Basket.)

This was my 5th opportunity to actually attend PRAASA.

My first PRAASA experience was 20 years ago when the DCM for District #5 asked me to listen to a cassette tape of one on the panel presentations and give a summary at that PRAASA Report Back on Maui. Although I didn’t attend that year, had no idea what PRAASA was, or what

happened there, I was able to learn from listening to the recordings and pass it on. I am grateful to that DCM for passing on how valuable PRAASA can be for A.A. as a whole.

If you have an interest in listening to any of these Panel presentations, you can probably borrow CDs recorded during the weekend. Ask around; our Delegate, many DCM's, and A.A. members purchased a set of, or individual copies of the presentations.

What was it like? What happened? Joel C., the Pacific Region Trustee suggested that every PRAASA is different and encouraged each of us have our own PRAASA experience. Here are some of my experiences: What's the difference between A.A. then and A.A. now? What has changed in 80 years? Back then, alcoholism was more of a social stigma, and we had fewer referrals. Now it is less of a social stigma and lots of people are referred to A.A.

This year I was asked to be a part of Panel 3: Traditions-Our Primary Purpose, and share "How can A.A. members continue to share our message and prevent confusion with other fellowships?" While researching this, I learned disruptions helped us "evolve principles by which the A.A. group and A.A. as a whole could survive and function effectively," and "A.A.'s Twelve Traditions are little else than a list of sacrifices which the experience of twenty years

has taught us that we must make, individually and collectively, if A.A. itself is to stay alive and healthy." I think it was a smart move on their part to call them "The 12 Traditions" and not "The 12 Sacrifices." What moved me the most is how our third tradition, our only requirement for membership came to be: In A.A.'s second year of existence, they figured out protective regulations were fear based. Instead of creating a program of intolerance, A.A. made room for not just the pure alcoholics, but also for alcoholics who had what they called "other stigmas." From year two, all of A.A. service has been learning how to make room for more alcoholics.

Panel 7: Recovery in A.A. Today seemed to be the "hot topic" and panel with the most people in line to share at the mic after the presenters had spoken. Is there a need for a pamphlet for those alcoholics who come here with mental health concerns? Are we twelfth-stepping or just sending people to meetings? Do our meetings and literature reflect our changing population demographics, including transgender and gender nonconforming alcoholics? Do we make agnostics, Buddhists, etc. feel welcome? Do we need to revise the pamphlet titled "A.A. For The Woman?" Although the focus of the presentation was pamphlets, we heard a lot from members on how we could act and move towards more

inclusion. What was stated the most at the microphone was, if the individual is an alcoholic, how can we help them recover from alcoholism?

The past trustee panel was another of my favorites. Several past trustees warn us to watch out for rigidity in A.A. Our steps were meant to show us how to stay sober and help others achieve sobriety. Too many are told they don't belong here. Too many are uninformed, or given misinformation about A.A. Although we may have differences and/or other issues, all who have alcoholism are welcome.

No matter how different a person seems, the language of the heart gives a struggling alcoholic hope, so, pass on our solution. Keep the door to A.A. very wide open. We offer directions for the alcoholic. The desire to follow those directions is voluntarily and comes from the alcoholic. Encourage the newcomer who is finished to grab on to someone who is going where they want to go.

There's more to say but I'll finish with a few more comments that got my attention: we'll find leaders without a title who make a difference in A.A. We are A.A.'s vision for A.A.'s future. It's up to us to keep the steps, traditions and concepts. And, if we ever fail it will be because we cannot control our own egos; too much of a focus on our rights and too little focus on our responsibilities. We created A.A. It's up to us to keep it safe.

