

2018 Inventory Assembly Delegate's Report

Aloha kakou. Thank you for letting me to be of service to Area 17, Hawaii, as your Panel 67 Delegate. 2017 was quite a year and I simply can't thank you enough for allowing me to have this experience. We are starting the second year of our two year panel and I hope and trust you all feel the same about your own service position.

My experience has shown me that the second year is a whole lot more fun and a whole lot easier than the first year. In fact, we have more work to do than during the first year of a panel as we've the Fall Elections Assembly. But if my experience is a judge, we are all more experienced, know what to expect, and have learned most of the ins and outs of our position. I know I'm looking forward to it, I hope you are too.

I've been keeping quite busy in since our last gathering. It's important to keep in mind that while the General Service Conference is held in the spring, this year April 22-28, there's a lot going on the rest of the year as well. In fact, as we meet the General Service Board is meeting in New York to work out the agenda items for this year's conference. That means we are just a couple of weeks away from seeing the entire list of topics and I, with a lot of help, will begin breaking them out into the topics we'll be discussing at our Inform the Delegate Assembly, April 7-8 on Oahu in the Diamond Head District. Those topics will be distributed at our Area Committee Meeting, February 24, held in Waianae, District 17.

As we did last year there will be electronic copies of the background material we ask each of you, by standing committee, to review as well as the entire set of data. In the past we have used USB drives to distribute the material through your DCMS, Standing Committee Chairs, and others. We will again be using that method, but I will also do my best to make a downloadable set available for a short time. I can't give details in this report as this will be put on our website and we don't want non-AA members accessing our confidential information. Unlike the Final Conference Report, which by action of last year's GSC can now be distributed electronically as it is anonymity protected; the background material has last name and identifiable information.

I am not yet exactly what topics we'll have to discuss, but there'll be plenty. If you recall, last year's background material ran to about 1200 pages. It would be difficult for anyone to get through all of that material so, like year, we will again be using the committee system, as we do at the Conference itself, to make sure we are all informed. As this process depends on 'an informed group conscience' please be sure to ask questions about the process, the material itself, or anything else that may come up.

I serve on the Policy and Admissions committee and while there are only two topics listed as tentative right now, looking at dates for future Conferences and discussion of polling Conference members outside of the Conference dates, there sure to be more.

That's what I can say about the 68th General Service Conference at this time. After this weekend, I'll know a whole lot more as I'll also be participating in a conference call with Joel, the Pacific Regional Trustee and the rest of the Pacific Regional Delegates.

But before the Conference, there's an important event I hope we all can attend, PRAASA, the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. Held the first weekend in March, this time in Reno, Nevada and hosted by Area 42 Nevada, it's sure to be good one. And I'm not just saying that because we have the Area 42 Nevada Delegate, Phil W., with us this weekend. He'll be talking more about PRAASA following my report.

I've been asked to present on the topic of "How Service Committees Representatives Serve AA." There are going to be a lot other topics to present on as well and even chances for those of you attending PRAASA to be in service as timers, moderators, and presenters. I need to submit a list of names of folks definitely going to PRAASA who are available to serve in those capacities. I'll need your name, full contact information, whether you've served 'on stage' before, what your service position is currently, and how many PRAASAS you've attended. I'll be making this announcement throughout the weekend so be sure to sign up. If you want to be in service as a greeter or any of the other positions available around the venue, be sure to sign up when you register.

If you are attending your first PRAASA I'd like to suggest you 'buddy up' with someone who's been there before. It can be a little overwhelming at first, I know from personal experience. I'll be doing my best to send back daily reports, as I've done in the past, for those of you unable to attend. Keep in mind my reports are generally about my experience, what I did and saw, and not necessarily straight reporting of facts.

So, we're going to be busy over the next few months, indeed, the rest of the year. But a lot has been going on since we last met as well. For me some highlights include:

I visited Maui at the beginning of December along with Laura H. and her husband Torvald. At the time she was serving as the Area 02 Alaska Panel 66 Delegate. That means she's now a past delegate as is Torvald. We'll be seeing them at PRAASA and you can ask them how they liked Maui. You can read about our experiences there in the most recent Mynah Bird. Let me just say this though, THANK YOU MAUI AA FELLOWSHIP. You really made it special for our Alaska guests and me as well. We had a wet and wonderful weekend together thanks to efforts of a lot of great folks from Maui.

I've also been attending meetings of the Hawaii ICYPAA bid committee. They are doing a great job of using technology to bring together committee members from all the islands to discuss the bid process. It's been a real pleasure helping out as best I can. I was even honored to be asked to do a 'pop-up discussion of Tradition and Concept One' online live. Yes, it was a closed channel so there weren't any anonymity issues. What a privilege and great use of technology. I hope we can all learn from their use of the technology in bringing us together and carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was also grateful to be asked to participate in the "Sobriety 101" workshop hosted jointly by the Diamond Head, Honolulu, and Waikiki Districts early this January. It was a very well attended and organized event focusing on the basic of recovery, literature, sponsorship, and my topic, service. I had a great time doing it and want to remind everyone that I am available, as your servant, if you'd like to have me at any event. Aside from my schedule travel, I'm available pretty much anytime.

There are some other things I should note as well. First and foremost in many people's minds is the lawsuit to halt the sale of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. A lot of questions have been asked about this and it has generated a fair bit of controversy, most outside of Hawaii it seems, but we do have a right to no.

In a letter from Greg T., the GSO manager, we've been informed that AAWS has moved to voluntarily dismiss the case. In this we are not saying we do not have legal right to the manuscript, simply that it is no longer in our best interests to pursue litigation as it has become too significant a distraction from AAWS's and the Board's responsibility in carrying out their mission and primary purpose of assisting recovering alcoholics. If you want to know more, please feel free to ask. I'll tell you what I can.

At this point I'd like to go over the latest AAWS Highlights. There's a separate document for this and I won't be reading it, just pointing a few things out.

[SEE AAWS HIGHLIGHTS]

One of the reasons Phil is out here with us, is to meet with me as co-chair of the Remote Communities Meeting which takes place just before the General Service Conference. You may recall last year I was privileged to share on the topic of using technology to reach remote communities. Phi and I were then asked to chair this year's meeting and we've been hard at work on that over the past few weeks.

Our overall topics will be "The Military as a Remote Community." This came about at the suggestion of the 67th GSC. In truth, we don't actually know what we're going to find out. While reaching out to alcoholics in the military might not seem to fit into a pre-conceived idea of remote communities, the challenges here are similar to those when reaching out to native populations and others separated from mainstream A.A. These may include cultural, geographic, linguistic barriers and, perhaps even those imposed by the need to maintain security clearances and operational safety.

We are asking our fellow delegates to offer presentations on three special topics, though of course, we'll be accepting all submissions from them. Those special topics are:

- What are the challenges and solutions to carrying the A.A. message onto local military bases?
- What are the challenges and solutions to carrying the A.A. message and supporting members who are on military deployment?
- What are the challenges and solutions to carrying the message to potential members in cooperation with the Veterans Administration (US) and the Veterans Affairs Canada (CAN)?

I'm grateful to Phil for coming out as we have a lot of work ahead of us preparing for the Remote Communities Meeting even while we prepare for the Conference itself.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that it's not too early to start planning for our Delegate Report Back meetings. As you know we ask our delegate to go to every district, or combination of districts, and report back on what their experience at the Conference as well as general information about what was decided and just as importantly, what wasn't decided. It is every A.A. member's right to know what goes on at that level of service and that we spending your Seventh Tradition monies wisely and for the

services you have requested. These report backs, are, at least in my mind, for the entire Fellowship and not just those involved in General Service. Along those lines, I do have a few requests. If at all possible it would be great if we could hold them indoors. Last year I had a lot of visual presentation material that simply can't be shown outside in our wonderful Hawaiian sunshine. Having said that, it's not a deal breaker. It's Hawaii, we like being outdoors, and as I'm sure you've come to realize, I can talk up a storm.

Second, I'll do as many of these as you want and as time allows. It would be great if I could come to every district. I do understand that many districts pool resources and that's good money management and can make for a bigger event. But, and this is simply an example not a suggestion, if it's better for me to report back in Lahaina on Saturday morning, Kihei Saturday afternoon, and Paia on Sunday, I'm happy to do it. The same goes for Kauai, Oahu, and Hawaii Island. And if there's any way of reporting back on Molokai I'd love for that to be a part of this year's schedule. I know there may be few members there, but that in itself should not be a reason that their delegate can't get to their island.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you, Area 17 Hawaii, and yes, A.A. as a whole as your Panel 67 Delegate. This past year has been one of the greatest highlights of my life and I know in my heart that "it keeps getting better."

If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours in love and service,

Bob H.

Area 17 Hawaii – Panel 67 Delegate