



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

P67 Issue #11 August 2018



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This, too, is service to AA!

**Next Issue of the Mynah Bird will be published
for the October 20 & 21 Elections Assembly
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLE
October 13, 2018**

UPCOMING AREA ASSEMBLIES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS for Panel 67

(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)

October 20 & 21, 2018
Election Assembly
Central North Shore District #9

Other Service or Area Events:

Pacific Regional Forum
September 7-9, 2018
San Jose, CA

57th Annual Hawaii State Convention
November 1-4, 2018
Hilton Hawaiian Village
Honolulu, HI

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Photographs and Memories

When I was a young child, I lived in the jungle on the island of Kalimantan (Borneo) in the Sabah region, now part of Malaysia. It doesn't make me unique, but it's unusual. Oddly though, it's not entirely unusual. When first getting sober I listened to a lot of speakers tapes online, and yes, I heard a fellow say he'd been moved to Borneo when he was four. As I recall, and I apologize if I'm mistaken, he thought it made him a bit unique. Nuh-uh.

My dad was an anthropologist and took his family, my mom and me, there to do his field research. It was amazing. We were there for almost two years while I aged from four to six. I still have a lot of great memories from that time. It was coming back to the U.S. that became a bit dicey for my family.

First, let me state for the record that I'm an alcoholic because of my relationship with alcohol. Physically I react differently than most people; drinking triggers that craving, a need to have more drinks. Mentally I've got that obsession which makes it impossible for me to stay stopped for any length of time. It's not the fault of my parents, where I've lived, how much money I have or don't have, or any other influence. I'm merely powerless over the stuff; even today at fourteen years sober. Luckily, I have A.A., all three Legacies, at least on most days.

Why do I state this before I continue? I think it's important because it's all too easy for me to assign blame for my condition on other people. And, when I first came to A.A. in the mid-Eighties, I'd pretty much blamed my dad for everything wrong in my life. I'm not sure if any of us escape childhood unscathed by something, some more than others.

My dad was a brilliant, if erratic, professor of Anthropology with a problematic relationship with me, my mom, and the world. I don't know if he was an alcoholic and couldn't, of course, diagnose him as one if I wanted to do so. That would have been up to him. Still, I can't help but think from time to time what his life might have been like had he found a spiritual solution to the problems he faced.

And, during my teen years as my alcoholism grew my relationship with him grew worse as did his relationship with life. He divorced my mom, and she moved back to Hawaii where'd we lived during my elementary school and junior high school years. Ultimately, I followed her home and found recovery, but my dad did not.

He chose a permanent solution to a temporary problem in the mid-Eighties. I was already back in Hawaii, and a year dry around A.A. I don't say in A.A. because though I didn't drink for five years, I really didn't take the Steps and drank again for fourteen years before finding and taking our program of recovery.

I spent time in therapy working on the issue of my father's suicide and ultimately came to realize that it wasn't about me. Very little in the world is about me, but as a good alcoholic, at least when drinking or not practicing recovery, I can certainly believe it is.

But, even I came to that realization, and finally sobered up, I spent most of my thoughts of him on what went wrong in our lives. I stopped blaming him for my alcoholism and have forgiven him for the craziness in my youth. But until recently I've never celebrated all that was good about him, our family, and the fantastic journey we took and lives we lived. Until now.

I moved from an old apartment not too long ago. It had belonged to my mom from the time she'd moved back to Hawaii and still had few boxes of family things stored that, stuff she hadn't taken with her to Hawaii Island when she moved there with her new, and non-alcoholic husband.

I never paid much mind to the stuff, until, of course, I had to move. What I discovered was a box of slides of pictures my dad had taken in Borneo during our time there. They are documentary in nature, not much family stuff, but they represent all that's left of his research. They are amazing. He had an eye for excellent photography and even in the most mundane of

shots documenting the lives of the folks we lived amidst, you can see the care he took getting things just right.

I'm a bit of a photographer myself and had access to a slide scanner, and I began, at first just to see what was there, to digitize the slides. As I did, I was flooded with beautiful memories of my time in Borneo, our time in Borneo. I began to appreciate my dad in a new way.

What a thing! To take your family halfway around the world on a student's budget to spend years in highlands of a place most people may not have heard of. To face hardships, sickness, snakes, and bugs...many, many bugs, knowing only that it was essential to do as a family and to give this gift of experience to his young wife and younger son.

As I scanned the images, I came to realize that I'd been selfish in my memories. I'd forgiven the worst, but I hadn't reclaimed the best. My dad was a fantastic man who did amazing things and allowed other to share that with him, generously so.

I'm not going to whitewash him. He was a troubled man. But then, so am I. However, that box of photographs has allowed me to see him much more thoroughly than I've let myself in the past. Ultimately, it renewed my feelings of love for this man who gave me so much, a life in which doing amazing things is not just allowed, but a normal consequence of living fully.

I'm sorry he retreated from all that at the end of his life, but I don't have to do the same. I'm five years older now than I was when he left us, a little miracle I think, one for which I'm genuinely grateful. I owe that to A.A. But the man I am, the one who can live some of his dreams, traveling, meeting strangers around the world, that I owe, at least in part to my dad. I miss him. I finally miss him. It's been a journey getting here, and that box of slides brought it all home. I miss him. I love him.

And now, after all these years since he's gone and since I've gotten sober, I can finally make amends with him. The slides are his, not mine. To that end, I've contacted an academic group with a focus on his field of research. In fact, there are people there who still remember him, and miss him as well. I've offered them the slides once I've digitized them. I received a very touching reply thanking me for the offer and yes, accepting it. They also asked me to share memories of the images and my part of my family's journey. The last of my dad's research will finally be shared with the academic world he so loved. It's a fitting amend, and a belated affirmation of my dad, his work, his journey, and his vision. He deserves it. He always did, I just never saw it.

Bob H.

August 2018

Honolulu, HI

Honolulu District 7th Tradition Workshop

Report August 11, 2018

Workshop called to order at 1:05 by DCM

Serenity Prayer

Welcome and opening remarks by DCM

Round of introductions by participating and panel members from around Oahu and some from California in attendance.

Moderator introduced herself

Panel:

Eric V

Linda M

Elizabeth M

Deborah L

DCM explained the agenda and format of the meeting.

Moderator directed everyone's attention to the pamphlet: AA Guidelines/Finance which was then read aloud round-robin style.

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-15_finance.pdf

After Reading, Moderator opened discussion to the panel:

Q: Can we spend money on a party?

GSO does not dictate what we can and cannot do, but collects suggestions for how meetings are handling these things and shares their findings.

Q: Filing for tax deduction is it ethical?

Panel member shared on her own evolving understanding of this issue, but said that it is a member's personal choice.

Q: Are there any issues about groups that sell t-shirts?

Answer from the panel. How the group distributes t shirt receipts is subject to group conscience. It's also important to be completely transparent about how the money is being distributed. Also, donations should not be accepted from non-members so if a non-member is purchasing a t-shirt, perhaps it should be for cost.

One panel member mentioned that sobriety medallions may be an expense that should be subject to scrutiny because that money may be better used for 7th tradition.

Moderator mentioned that t-shirt announcement in her group is clearly identified as a "non-aa" activity and the money is clearly earmarked.

Q: Regarding the "e-filing postcard" what is this group's experience?

Not many groups exceed the \$5000/year threshold. Panel recommended discussing the issue with groups that do and asking for their experience.

Q: What about local taxes?

Some experience from the panel regarding getting an EIN. Banks are requiring an EIN but no experience shared regarding Hawai'i state tax issues.

Next, Moderator directed everyone to the flyer: "Historical Background of Self-support" Read-aloud, round-robin style

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_fv-19_flyersonself-support.pdf

- Panel member brought group's attention to the birthday envelope. DCM said he had birthday envelopes available for everyone to bring back to their home groups.
- Member from California gave thoughts on sponsorship and contributions and how contribution levels are down all over.
- Panel member asked the group to consider how we let our membership know how the contributions are being used. Perhaps build support by sharing the excitement about what is going on at GSO such as international efforts to build the fellowship. Translations of the Big Book. Efforts to bring AA to Russia and other countries.
- Area Delegate shared on the state of the GSO revenues: Contributions are increasing slower than expenses. The number of groups contributing is declining. Contributions demonstrate groups' commitment to the spiritual responsibility of a group.
- Panel member discussed her evolution on her understanding of contributions.
- Member shared on her experience with donations including the practice of donating one dollar for each ten years of recovery and about our responsibility to the next alcoholic.
- Panel member read from the latest Box 459 a letter from the Chairman of the Board. Teaching the AA member the dignity that arises from being a responsible citizen and a responsible member of AA.

Recommendation from the group to have an updated flyer that shows how costs have changed but AA contributions have not.

DCM shared his experience of reaching out to all district groups including groups that have fallen away from activity with general service and have not contributed to the district, area and or GSO.

Panel member: I would not have recovered without the Big Book. Our contributions support the maintenance of the big book, without which "millions would not have recovered. I was one of those millions. Thank you for your support."

Moderator directed attention to flyer: "Your seventh tradition contributions"

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-203_en_seventhtraditionsfactsheet.pdf

Read aloud round-robin style

Q: How would you respond to group that gives only to Intergroup?

- Member with strong ties to Intergroup said all organizations—GSO, Area, district and intergroup—work together and in conjunction with each other. For example, intergroup cannot function without a healthy GSO because all the literature comes from GSO. She would suggest to that group that their contribution should be split according to the pie chart in the literature.
- Panel member said each entity functions to the benefit of a different group of members and all those members need support.
- DCM shared his experience at the public information desk at a Health convention. GSO supported a table at the convention and provided literature. Central office and GSO worked in conjunction to make the table a success. Reaching out to the professional community is some of the work being done in General service at all levels: district, area and GSO.
- Delegate says: "when anyone anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand...."

Next pamphlet: “Where Money and Spirituality Mix”.

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-3_selfsupport.pdf

Read aloud round-robin style.

- Panel member noted the cost of operation per group of \$149 and said there is also a cost per individual.
- Member discussed an “area challenge” that if every member in the area contributed \$7.41 they would be self-supporting and contributing their fair share to GSO
- Panel member reminded us that one great thing about AA is that so much work has been done by members before us. We didn’t have to come up with all this information. All we had to do was walk in and become a part of it. All of this is already done. We just must adhere to these principles to the best of our ability.
- Panel member talked regarding how Hawai’i is expensive, and should we contribute to all these things. She pointed out how the recommended distribution is 50% for Intergroup and if everybody followed that suggestion, we would be good.
- Member said that none of this made sense to him when he got sober. But now he can see when groups are following the traditions, you can see that things are running smoothly and eventually we can see how important the traditions are. He asked for experience regarding personal experience with the traditions.
- Member asked about individual contribution limits. Literature says limit is \$3000 per year and \$5000 at death, but a panel member said this may have recently been increased.
- Panel member responded to request for personal experience with the 7th tradition. She said applying the principle of self- support in all areas of her life has not just been about cash but also about time and energy.
- Member added his experience of his story of how money and spirituality mix. Sometimes being of service to other members sometimes costs us personally.
- Another member said they were taught in early sobriety that gratitude is expressed in service as well as when the basket goes around.

Panel discussion: Different entities of AA, District, Area, etc.

- A DCM from another district on the Panel says her District uses the contributions they receive to for two workshops every year, Alkathons for New years and Christmas, rent, sometimes groups need help sending GSRs to off island assemblies and to send DCM to assemblies and committee meetings.
- Another panel member says much of Area budget goes to travel. It’s the cost of unity. 3-4 meetings a year for assemblies that include GSRs and all the area officers. Then 3-4 times a year for committee meetings that include just the Area officers and committee chairs. Travel does not include hotel because of homestay. Area also sends the delegate to GSO, so they can participate in the general service conference. She realizes some groups object to funding travel. She asserted that the area meetings are working meetings that go 8 hours a day for the whole weekend it’s not a vacation. The area has many standing committees such as public information, the convention, cooperation with professional community. The website is a link to resources.
- Another panel member said that about a decade ago an assembly was scheduled in the Volcano zone. It was a travel disaster. No hotels were available, flights were

rescheduled, but nonetheless the assembly went on with great attendance and renewed sense of energy.

- She went on to say the Central office is about providing conference-approved literature, prospect calls. keeping reference information about treatment, maintaining meeting schedules. Setting up 12 step calls.

Next pamphlet: “The AA Group Treasurer”

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-96_theaagrouptreasurer.pdf

Round Robin: read-aloud

- One member asked whether checking accounts can be interest bearing. The panel said no.
- Panel member said that his group is very careful to make sure the treasurer is personally financially responsible.
- Another panel talked about how her group’s treasury started growing too large as their group grew and with those growing pains, they had to follow these guidelines and find legitimate ways to distribute the contributions.
- Another panel member says this tradition assists members in learning accountability. Not just holding the treasurer accountable, but also the rest of the group benefits from the self-respect that comes from being self-supporting.
- DCM shared about how difficult it is to find a good treasurer for the district.
- Panel member said treasurer is a commitment that a lot of people don’t want to do. It’s often a two-year commitment which makes it difficult to recruit willing members and sometime rotation is difficult for that reason.
- Member said his group has an unspoken tradition that the treasurer is always a convicted felon.

Green Card: “Self Support”

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-42_en.pdf

Read aloud by moderator

- Panel member commented on the importance of looking at these issues and looking at how our organization survives when we contribute enough, but not when we contribute too much. The poverty of the organization is also its strength.
- Member commented on her gratitude for this workshop despite her lack of excitement for the topic. She said she was surprised at how many answers she got to the confusion about money that comes up all the time at her group’s business meetings.
- DCM commented on how useful the Green card about self-support can be at meetings.

People made general comments about the overall thoughts on the meeting—generally positive.

Closed workshop with A.A.’s Responsibility Statement

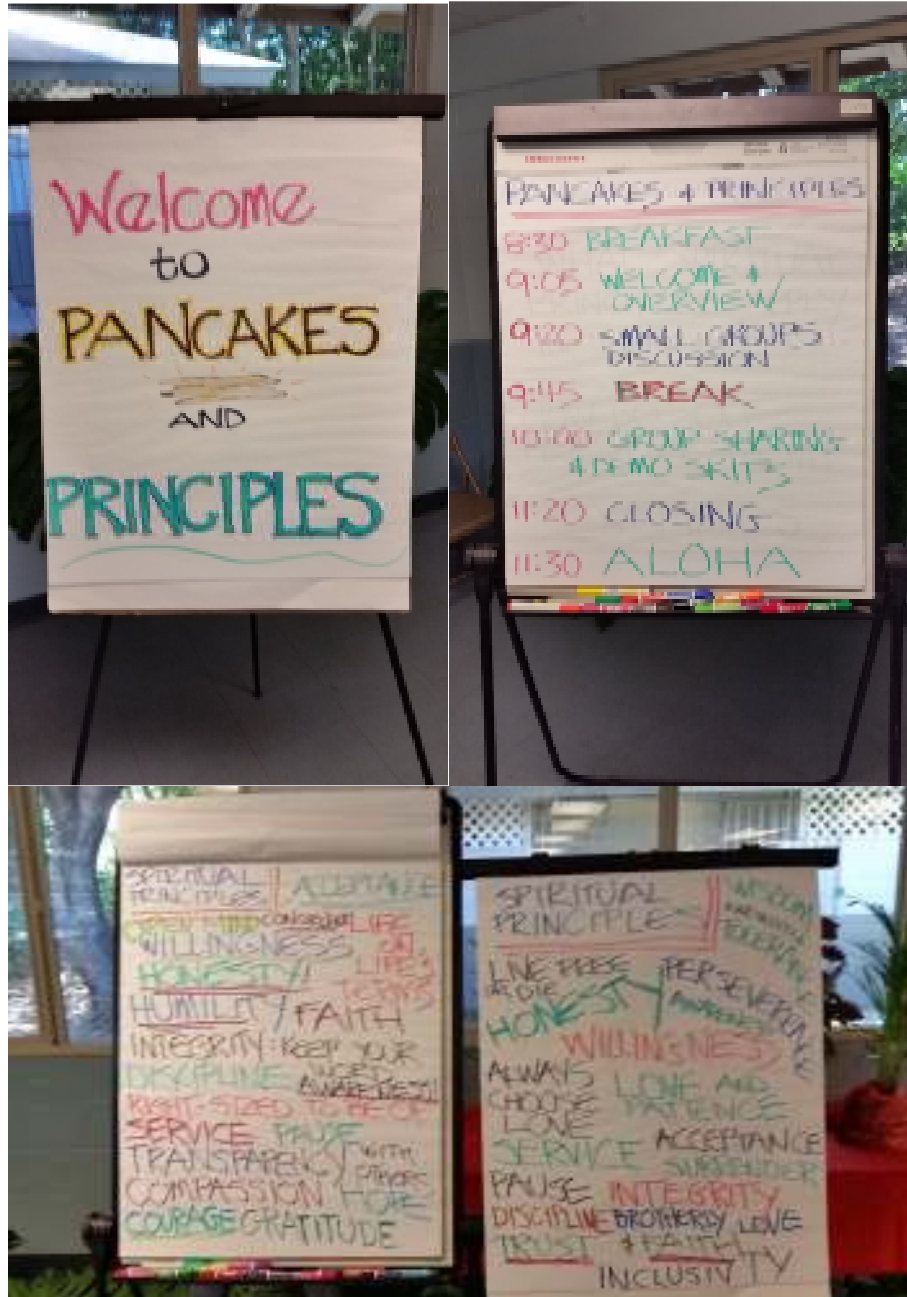
Respectfully submitted,
Bryan A
GSR Honolulu District

Pancakes and Principles Workshop – July 8, 2018

I had the pleasure of attending the Pancakes and Principles Workshop hosted by Kihei District #11. There sure were a lot of pancakes and a lot of principles. Approximately 100 were in attendance and participation was great. Loved those Skits.

Thank You Kihei District!

Clifford S.



G.S.O. reply to Happy Hour Group – Area 17, Kauai District #6

“Warmest greetings from your friends at G.S.O.!

As you know, the trustees’ Committee on Literature met on Saturday, July 28, 2018, and considered the proposal forwarded on behalf of the Happy Hour group of Alcoholics Anonymous (Area 17/District 6) that the “General Service Conference consider adding a paragraph extolling the positive experience of participation in general service meetings (including business/group conscience meetings) to Chapter 29 ‘Going to A.A. meetings,’ page 76 in subsequent printings of *Living Sober*.”

The following is an excerpt from the report of the trustees’ meeting:

The committee discussed a proposal to add a paragraph to Chapter 29 in *Living Sober* “extolling the positive experience of participation in general service meetings (including business/group conscience meetings)” and took no action. The committee agreed that there is no widely expressed need from the Fellowship to revise *Living Sober* as proposed; and that the “positive experience of participation in general services meetings” may be best addressed in the new pamphlet on the Three Legacies, currently under development.

On behalf of the trustees’ committee, we extend our appreciation to you and the members of the Happy Hour group for participating in the Conference process.”

In fellowship,

Sandra

Sandra W*****
Staff Coordinator/Literature
Secretary, trustees’ Literature Committee
xxx-xxx-xxxx



The General Public believes:

A.A. is a good thing

A.A. is religious

**Maui/Hawaii Public Information Committee
(P.I.)**

Needs your help!

Do you have a relationship/friendship with:

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)-
TV/Cable, Radio, News

School Counselors, Principals, Health/PE
Teachers

**Please contact Mare L. pi@area17aa.org
and/or attend**

**Public Information Committee 2nd Saturday
4:30 at Central Office**

**(Sponsors be the example and bring your
sponsees~ do as much or as little as you like)**

GROUP HISTORY FORM

When completed, please return to:

archivist@area17aa.org and archives@area17aa.org

Name of Group: _____

Previous Name: _____

Date Founded: _____

Founders: _____

Early Members: _____

Place and time of first meeting:

Do the early members continue to attend?

Current Meeting (place/time/format):

Current Membership #'s: _____ each mtg _____ home group _____ business mtgs _____

Did the group move?

Dates: _____ Location: _____

Dates: _____ Location: _____

Dates: _____ Location: _____

Dates: _____ Location: _____

Group History (such as anniversaries, special meetings, outside speakers, notes about the founders, etc.):

Note: Please include any/all information you may be aware of, not asked for on this form, as it will result in a clearer or more factual account of your group. Other pertinent details:

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Long-Timers Interview
****Suggested questions ****

1. What is your full name and sobriety date? (last names will remain anonymous)
2. How did you first learn about AA?
3. Where and when did you attend your first meeting?
4. Have you stayed sober since your first meeting?
5. Were there many meetings that were active when you got sober?
6. Are they still active today?
7. Did you have a sponsor? Tell me about him/her.
8. Did someone take you to meetings in the beginning of sobriety?
9. What kind of service activities have you participated in?
10. Are you still active in AA today?
11. Have these activities aided in your sobriety?
12. What were the twelve step calls like in early sobriety?
13. Can you name some of the founders of your early group?
14. Do you have the names of any other long-time members who would like to share their stories with the Hawai'i Archives Committee?
15. Is there anything else you would like to share that has not been covered in this interview?
16. Please list suggested questions below to add to this Long-Timers interview for the Hawai'i Area 17 Archives.

When completed, please return to:

archivist@area17aa.org, archives@area17aa.org

WHERE MONEY & SPIRITUALITY MIX

N J T R U S T L A U F E K Y C H B S B U
 G B K X S J R W T U C N C T O B M H D G
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AUTHORITY
 BUDGET
 CONTRIBUTIONS
 EXPENSES
 FINANCES
 GIVE
 GRATITUDE
 INVESTMENT
 MONEY
 PARTICIPATION

PROPERTY
 PRUDENT
 RESPONSIBILITY
 SHARING
 SUPPORT
 TRADITIONSEVEN
 TREASURER
 TRUST
 VOLUNTARY