



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER



Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

*June 15, 2019 – Committee Meeting.
Hilo / Hamakua District #7

Hawaii Area Committee
P.O. Box 1413
Honolulu, Hawaii 96806

August 24, 25, 2019 Budget Assembly
West Hawaii District #8.

November 16, 2019 Committee meeting
Windward District #4

General Service Board
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Who should attend:

Committee Meetings: Attendance by DCMs, Area Standing Committee Chairs, and Area Officers is required. GSRs are not required to attend but strongly encouraged.

Assemblies: GSRs, DCMs, Area and District Standing Committee Chairs, Area Officers, others as necessary.



CONCEPTS CHECKLIST:

A service piece for home groups, districts, areas

Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office. While this checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, districts or areas, individual A.A. members may find it useful along with our co-founder Bill W.'s writings, a service sponsor if you have one and reflection on your own service experience. Additional information about the Concepts can be found in The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated" pamphlet. (The Concepts stated here are in the short form.)

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?**
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?**
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?**
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?**
- Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?**

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?

What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?

Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives — with a traditional "Right of Decision."

- Do we understand what is meant by the "Right of Decision"? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we "instruct"?**
- Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the Conference itself?**

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the “Right of Participation”?
 - What does “in reasonable proportion” mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
 - Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?
- Concept V:** Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the “Right of Appeal,” to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
 - What does our group accept as “substantial unanimity”?
 - Has our group experienced the “tyranny of the majority” or the “tyranny of the minority”?
 - Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Concept VI: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?

- Are we clear about the terms, “chief initiative” and “active responsibility”?
- Can we see a direct link to our home group?

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

- Do we act responsibly regarding the “power of the purse”?
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

Concept VIII: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

- Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities (A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine) and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term “custodial oversight” apply to the trustees’ relationship to the two corporate service entities?
- Does my home group subscribe to G.S.O.’s bimonthly newsletter Box 4-5-9? The A.A.Grapevine? Do I?

Concept IX: Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them”?
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service

authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

- Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.? Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority”?

Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants.

Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional “Right of Participation”?
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

Concept XII: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

- How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power”?
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?

- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of A.A.’s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

Q. What is the history behind AA's Responsibility Statement?

A. The Responsibility Statement reads:

I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

It was written for the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto. In an article titled, 'How I am Responsible became a part of A.A.', from the GSO newsletter, Box 4-5-9. The article identifies former AA trustee, Al S. as the author of the Responsibility Statement.

Q. What is the history behind reading The Lord's Prayer at meetings?

A. It is mentioned in *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers* that the prayer was used from the very beginning in the Fellowship, at least as early as 1938 and 1939. In those days there was no AA literature, so the early groups relied heavily on existing prayers, and on the Bible and Oxford Group literature, for inspiration and guidance.

Bill W. commented several times in his correspondence about the early use of the Lord's Prayer. He wrote a letter to a member in 1959 in which he stated:

"This practice probably came from the Oxford Groups who were influential in the early days of A.A. You have probably noted in A.A. Comes of Age what the connection of these people with A.A. really was. I think saying the Lord's Prayer was a custom of theirs following the close of each meeting. Therefore it quite easily got shifted into a general custom among us."

No Matter What: Dealing With Adversity in Sobriety

All recovery alcoholics have had to deal with adversity throughout sobriety...a serious illness, an ugly divorce, the death of a child, the loss of a house to fire or to the bank. Despite the fear, pain or self-pity we are in when these tragedies strike, drinking is not an option. The stories in this book show how AA members use the tools of the program and embrace the Fellowship to deal with tough issues.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS!!!!...



International Convention
Detroit, Michigan - July 2-5, 2020

MICYPAA

4th Dimension
 Camp Keanae
 May 24-26th



REGISTRATION PRICES:
 Before May 10th: \$75
 After May 10th: \$95
 Kids (Ages 5-12): \$40

DAY PASSES:
 Adults: \$40
 Kids (Ages 5-12): \$15

MAUIFEST XV THE ALOHA SPIRIT IN ACTION

THURS MAY 30 - SUN JUNE 2, 2019
 AT THE ROYAL LANAI ON KAANAPALI BEACH



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\$70 NOW THRU APRIL 30TH
MAY 1ST - MAY 20TH \$85 | 0800 526 526


REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MAUIFEST.ORG



HICYPAA 2019 Conference

CAMP WAIANAE, OAHU

SEPTEMBER 20th-22ND



THE CROSSING

2018 • LANAI • March 16th, 17th & 18th

The Crossing is an event of Hawaii Area's Tri-Island District 13. It brings the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in the form of campouts to the District's islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai. With a series of meetings, food, and fun activities, our purpose is to carry the message and hope of recovery to all who suffer from alcoholism.



The 58th Annual Hawaii Convention

October 31 - November 3, 2019

Marriott Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa

"We Are Going to Talk About God"

'A'ole i piliwai 'ia

Working the Booth

The American Psychological Association held its 121st annual convention in Honolulu from July 31st to August 4th and Alcoholics Anonymous was invited to have a booth in the exhibition hall. I along with members of Alcoholics Anonymous from Oahu staffed the booth from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. We answered questions and handed out literature to attendees of the convention.

I arrived in Honolulu on Tuesday so that I would have a chance to "check out" our location in the Convention Center and to meet up with Oahu members – thank you Jay D. and Katie C. – who had received the material from GSO that we would need to set up our booth. I found our booth, #318, easily, however it was empty except for a sign saying "Alcoholics Anonymous – New York, NY". I had received information from GSO indicating that all furniture for the exhibit had been ordered, however, there was some sort of communication lapse and there was no record that any furniture had been ordered for our booth. Thankfully I was able to obtain a table for our display from the furniture supplier at the Convention Hall and Katie volunteered to bring a small table and some chairs for our booth. All we really needed was a coffee pot! I'm grateful for the six hour time difference between Hawaii and New York. I emailed GSO and by Wednesday morning all had been resolved – my credit card had been refunded and GSO had been charged for the necessary furniture.

I would like to thank Jay D. and Dave E. for recruiting volunteers to staff our booth. It turned out to be a reunion of sorts for some of us – one of the volunteers that Dave had recruited knew Jay from a past interaction and one of the volunteers that Jay had recruited is a friend of mine originally from California. It is so good to reconnect with people that I have not seen in a long time and to see that they are doing well.

Many people passed our booth each day. It was fascinating to watch the different reactions. Some stopped by and said something like "I'm a friend of Bill's". Some said "I'm glad you are here, keep up the good work". Others came in and talked to us and asked questions like "how does AA work?", "what is your success rate?", and "do you have NA literature"? We answered the best we could – we share our experience, we surrender, we find a power greater than ourselves, AA doesn't keep records of individual members and AA deals with alcohol not drugs. We passed out pamphlets and gave people the opportunity to receive the newsletter for professionals. Some quickly came in our booth, took some literature and then quickly exited.

On the Friday of the convention, free Mai Tais were offered – I observed that they were quite small! The line to get Mai Tais was right in front of our booth – again it was interesting to watch the different reactions of the people – some were careful to keep their eyes straight ahead, some looked at us and smiled and some saw the irony in the situation. One of the women from the booth across from us came over see what we thought about the free Mai Tais. She was quite upset that alcohol was being served – actually there was wine served at another time in the exhibit hall (just making an observation). She asked what I thought of it and I said that I had no opinion – thank you for the traditions!

Thank you to Area 17 for giving me the opportunity to be of service. I've observed that there is a lack of knowledge about Alcoholics Anonymous as well as many misconceptions about Alcoholics Anonymous in the professional community – it was a good feeling to be a part of the solution to change that.

Karen N., CPC Chair



Service

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D	S	S	N	O	I	T	A	T	I	D	E	M	S	N

Admit
Harmony.
Perseverance.
Step

Awakening.
Help
Prayer.
Treatment.

Delegate
Meditation
Program
Trudge

**THERE IS NO
CHEMICAL
SOLUTION TO A
SPIRITUAL
PROBLEM**