



Area Website: www.area17aa.org



Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

<p>(VIRTUAL) Election Assembly November 7th & 8th 2020</p> <p>Orientation Assembly January 9th & 10th 2021</p>	<p>Hawaii Area Committee P.O. Box 1413 Honolulu, Hawaii 96806</p> <p>Grand Central Station New York, NY 1016 P.O. Box 459</p>
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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.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things, I cannot change, courage to change the things, I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

In this Article

Area 17 reports:

Chair - Tommy G.

Grapevine - Julie G.

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Article submitted by CEC Chair Mare L.

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CHAIR

October 3rd Area 17
Committee Meeting
Chair Report

Aloha Area 17 Trusted Servants,

Today I am excited to be a part of Hawaii Area 17 because of the diversity and the resilience of our members, groups, and districts for helping inform our Area as a whole through these trying times. As for me I have learned that being uncomfortable helps me grow in recovery and spiritually, and there was a lot of growth in Panel 69.

There is also a little sadness knowing that this is our last committee meeting for panel 69, and I am honored to have been able to work side by side with all of you.

I have been looking at different ways to hold the November elections assembly to best use our Third Legacy of voting and also make it fun and exciting. For the members who have attended an election assembly we know the excitement and compassion and the love that we experience and Area 17 hopes to bring these same aspects to our virtual elections on November 7th & 8th.

Please pass on the passion and love we have come to enjoy in general service work to all our Hawaii AA members and inform them of all that recovery, unity, and service can help AA as a whole and better our spiritual life. Pass on the joy of service in our homegroups, our districts and at area.

For those who wish to serve as a standing committee chair please email me at chair@area17aa.org so the newly elected chair and area officers can choose all standing committee chairs for panel 71.

With a full heart, thank you for letting me of service,

Mahalo,
Tommy G.

GRAPVINE

Grapevine Committee Report

The grapevine committee is happy to help with a workshop, as they've heard that the Annual Hawaii Committee may be looking for a grapevine workshop at their virtual convention this year. Carry the Message Project 2020 is still going on. Groups, individuals, districts, and areas can donate Grapevine subscriptions to alcoholics in correctional facilities who have requested them. Try the new ePub edition of Grapevine magazine, which replaces the old Grapevine app. There are new covers on the Grapevine Daily Quote books, printed in English, French, and Spanish.

Please submit stories with the following topics by these dates: fun in sobriety (10/15), the step that changes my life (11/15), or dating and relationships, prison service, and sober seniors are other featured topics in upcoming issues. Please submit any story as it doesn't need a particular topic to be published.

I've been busy communicating with other Grapevine district and area chairs about what they've been doing and online workshops they're putting on.

I'm available to attend district meetings to discuss my role as Area Grapevine Chair or put on Grapevine workshops at AA events.

CONVENTION

Hawaii Area 17 Alcoholics Anonymous General Service ***Standing Committee Report***

Date: October 3, 2020

Standing Committee: Annual Hawaii Convention Steering Committee

Person reporting and position: Sally T. – Convention Chair

Phone Number: 808-265-3903

Email: sallyahc2020@gmail.com

Suggestions: Start with how your committee is carrying the message through such things as workshops, events attended, committee goals carried out, etc. Your report will be limited to 2 minutes. Please provide a copy via email or hard copy to our area secretary.

What the _____ Standing Committee did to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous:

Other Topics:

We did not hold a Steering Committee meeting in September, or next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2020 at 5:30PM on Zoom

All registered attendees were informed of the postponement of the Convention and their options for refund of registrations.

We are going to start looking in to operations for the 2021 Convention in December.

Working with the Convention Committee for possibly holding a zoom "mini convention". Small venue possibly, oldtimers meeting, speaker discussion meetings, workshops and panels during the day. Night time big meetings on Fri/Sat, and a Sunday morning meeting. Windward District will have a workshop Saturday from 10 – 2. Al-Anon will also participate.

REGISTRAR

Registrars Report – October 3, 202 Committee Meeting

I continue to make Group Information changes via email as the Net Suite system is not yet operational for Registrars to enter data. Mahalo to DCM's for getting changes to me so that I can update our records.

I have been receiving three reports – Area and District Service Positions, Groups by Area and District and Group Contacts – from GSO. I have been receiving them about every ten days. Thankfully they are Excel files so I can search for the information I need without having to print out the entire report each time. I did a spot check on information that I had entered in early September and found that the changes had been made. It appears that the Records Department has resolved the back-log issue.

I answered a survey regarding features in the new system that are most important to our Area. I said that the ability to make changes and communication regarding changes were most important to our Area.

There is still no definitive word as to when the Net Suite system will be fully operational. The hope is that it will be operational at the end of the year, however since the General Service Office will be closed until 2021, it is unknown as to when the system will ready for Registrars to use.

I participated in a Zoom call with two other registrars from the Pacific Region. No problems were solved, but it is reassuring to know that we are not in this alone.

I am including the message from Greg Tobin – I included it in my report for the Budget Assembly and I think it is still relevant.

"A final note: I explicitly promised the trustees over the past Board Weekend that we would not again express our gratitude for your "patience" in this process, as we have done in the past. Rather, I should like to commit to you that we understand the internal causes of the problems in implementing My Portal (the quality of the data and unwieldy legacy processes), have enlisted help from the Fellowship in testing potential solutions, and now have delivered the first of, we hope, many reports to come—for your review and feedback." G. Gregory Tobin, General Manager

Mahalo for letting me be or service.

Karen N.

"Men and women drink essentially because they like the effect produced by alcohol. The sensation is so elusive that, while they admit it is injurious, they cannot after a time differentiate the true from the false. To them, their alcoholic life seems the only normal one."

CEC

The C.E.C. committee usually consists of the committee chairperson and, depending on the service level of the committee, at least one A.A. member from the group, district, area or intergroup/central office. Welcome the participation of any A.A. member by notifying local groups through its General Service Representatives (G.S.R.), announcements and newsletters.

CEC Committee Report October 3, 2010

1. Been in contact with committee, going to their meetings, reminding them to announce after meetings for folks to stay in contact with the seniors, especially those who are isolating. Some groups have one contact person with names of fellowship members who are willing to make calls, brings meals. I got a call last night from a woman who is coordinating meals for an 80-year old SPONSEE of hers. The woman's husband does everything for her, He has to go into the hospital and this woman is making sure women are totally supporting her. I can make a meal, and someone will pick it up from me...Easy!
2. A good time to make an announcement about general service is right after the 7th tradition. "Contribute to area, district, etc. say, "Another way to contribute is to be involved with your district service" maybe talk about a committee for 30seconds, say when the district meeting is, invite INDIVIDUALLY. Call. Just announcing it at meeting does not work.
3. Kihei District is participating with Maui Senior Fair this month: it is on zoom. They are presenting a 90 second conversation between 2 seniors, one is struggling with the whole isolation of COVID and turning to drinking too much. The other offers some suggestions, sharing how she gets so much value from Zoom AA meetings. Like us, the Senior Fair met in person last year, so our committee has some connections.
4. Kihei district is also involved with a zoom all day long (today) seminar with the Mental Health Association on suicide prevention. They will share how AA meetings are on zoom and how folks can access them.

"The idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker."

**TREASURER'S REPORT
HAWAII AREA 17
Elections Assembly – November 7&8, 2020**

Aloha Panel 69 trusted servants,

As of November 1, 2020 the Hawaii Area funds are as follows:

Operating Funds	\$40,685.04
Prudent Reserve	\$5,000.59
Reserve for Computer Equipment	\$726.45
Reserve for International Convention	\$2229.89
Total Cash in Bank	\$48,641.97

Total Contributions and Income	\$22,215.40
-Total Expenditures	-\$14,560.22
Net Income/Loss	\$7,665.18

Hawaiian Airlines Miles Balance 146,256

**Mailing Address for
7th Tradition Contributions:
Hawaii Area Committee
PO Box 1413
Honolulu, HI 96806**

****Please make check payable to
"Hawaii Area Committee" and
also include Group Name, District,
and Group Service Number!**

Aloha Panel 69 of Hawaii Area 17!

As of the 1st of November 2020, the Area is currently in the black for 2020. While contributions have decreased significantly over the past few months, the Hawaii Area's expenses have also decreased as we have moved to virtual assemblies and committee meetings as well as most of the Service events have been cancelled. For now, the Hawaii Area is stable financially and able to meet monthly expenses. The Finance Committee will be discussing the Area's ongoing financial situation with decreased contributions and eventually resuming normal operations. Attached to this report, you will find our Budget v Actual Expenditures for 2020 which details all of the Area's expenses by line item.

Treasury Happenings:

- Hawaiian Airlines has refunded the miles to the Area's Preferred Affiliate Account from the cancelled Pacific region Forum flights.
- The Area officers decided to cancel the current Mobile Beacon Hotspot subscription as it is an unnecessary expense for this year. The next panel will be able to sign up for this service once able to meet in person.
- Districts 6 & 12 have returned the seed monies for the October Committee meeting and Elections Assembly, respectively.

Regarding 7th Tradition Contributions, Mahalo Nui Loa to all the groups that have contributed, small and large, to our General Service Structure. Please remember to make checks and money orders payable to "Hawaii Area Committee" (NOT "Area 17") and include your Group name, District, and Group Service Number on your Contributions. If you would like a receipt, please include a request for a receipt with a return postal address or an email address for an e-receipt. The **correct** Area mailing address is included at the top of this report.

Should you require support, have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me through the Area email at treasurer@area17aa.org.

In Love & Service, Rachel S., Area Treasurer, Panel 69

HOSTED BY WAIKIKI DISTRICT 10



20 20
THANK-A-THON

Join us online for this year's
Thank-a-Thon via Zoom

STARTS WED, NOV 25 AT 4 PM
AND ENDS
THURS, NOV 26 AT 4 PM



DON'T SPEND THE HOLIDAY ALONE
24 HOURS OF NON-STOP AA MEETINGS

Meetings start at the top of every hour. Email
Patrick G. at LastSagamore@hotmail.com
to secretary a 1-hour meeting. Groups must provide a
secretary, speaker and co-host. Must be familiar with
Zoom. We also need Zoom moderators to assist groups,
assign co-hosts and help with security.

I started as a GSR.

In 1994, when I 10 years sober and new to Hawai`i, I was elected to serve as General Service Representative for a Women's group. My first Inform the Delegate Assembly was in 1995. It was held in Kihei at a covered picnic pavilion at KAMAOLE III. Charlie N. was delegate, and one of the topics was: What do you think of the internet? Should A.A. have a presence there? I'd been attending an online A.A. meeting when a guy came in and asked, "Hey, what's happening?" People passed on the suggestions we tend to make, "don't drink, find a meeting where you live, attend, get a Big Book, learn about the program and the steps, find a sponsor, a higher power, and pray." A few weeks later, he came back and said that he'd followed our suggestions and had two weeks of sobriety.

The next panel, I was elected to serve as treasurer of No Ka `O'i district. After that panel, I went back to living life on life's terms: work, family, home, and local A.A. But when I was 20 years sober, even with family and friends, a job, a home, and the good stuff that showed up because of A.A., I was restless, irritable and discontent. Sitting by myself in my back yard I thought, "This is it? What's the point of staying sober?" In a split second I heard in my head, "I'm glad you asked."

At the Thanksgiving Alka-thon, three friends shared they had been elected GSRs. They encouraged me to stand to serve again. I replied, "No. That's for the bossy people." They said, "C'mon. It will be fun!" I was elected. During that panel, once again I learned that contempt prior to investigation is not a good habit to

hold on to. All kinds of people serve in A.A. and being a GSR was fun. It was work too, but we traveled and learned together.

After that, each panel found something for me to do: DCM, Area Treasurer, Area Secretary, Alternate Chair, Chair, Alternate Delegate, and now Delegate. Sometimes I was elected by 2/3rds majority vote, and other times my name was pulled from the hat. The hat taught me the importance of the minority opinion in A.A. We don't just give lip service to the minority opinion. If after 4-5 rounds of voting we haven't chosen someone by 2/3rd majority, we put the remaining names in a hat and choose one. We really do mean it when we say the minority is equal in importance as the majority.

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By the time I was elected delegate, I'd seen how Charlie, Keith, Vernon, Elizabeth, Linda, Cheryl, Ken, and Bob had served. Tanya, David, Scottie and Don were past delegates that also have been around to help and share experience. They were always a phone call away, or sometimes hanging out at the back of the assembly room. The first year was pretty much as expected. I didn't have to make the job up, I just had to practiced what I'd learn from previous delegates and panel members.

Past delegates had shared that the second year as delegate would be a little easier than the first year. You are familiar with your responsibilities and things go a little smoother. We all know what happened in March 2020. Covid-19 changed not only our personal and work lives, but the way A.A. functions in the world as

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well. We became the Panel 69 and 70 Pandemic Pioneers. I have been amazed by the solution and creative ways A.A. up and down the triangle has change and adapted to keep the hand of A.A. here for the newcomer, as well as for everyone in A.A.

Each year of service has had unique challenges and wonderful experiences. Every panel has been different. We start out newly elected to service positions that are familiar in the service structure, yet the responsibilities are new to us. And although each panel is distinctly different, each one maintained that link in the A.A. chain from the past panel to the next one. It's a chain that started in 1935 and will continue for as long as A.A. members and HP are willing. I'm looking forward to seeing who is a part of the Panel 71, and all Hawai'i Area 17 will accomplish.

Thank you for all these opportunities to be of service,
Coleen A.

Area 17 Delegate, Panel 69

delegate@area17aa.org

Conference Agenda Committee

Article from *CEC Chair Mare L.*

My name is Tim E. and I'm an alcoholic. This past year I have been of service to the Kihei District committee named Cooperation with the Elder Community. The outreach activities we did reinforced several important AA principles including The principles Willingness and Responsibility.

Over the course of the year we pursued three CEC activities including, the provision of AA Meeting Schedules to a number of senior food service providers, participation in the Maui County Senior Fair and outreach to seniors normally attending meetings who because of the COVID pandemic are no longer able to attend meetings and without access to Zoom.

Key to distributing pre-pandemic AA Meeting Schedules involved being willing to meet new people, telling them a little about my story and conveying to them the breath of AA meetings available on Maui. Specifically, I reached out to nurses, medical assistants, food preparers and administrators. I found it most effective to connect with those individuals who personally connect with seniors. The closer I could convey the information to those directly interacting with seniors the more likely the information actually made to seniors in need. Often, transporters and care providers who actually visit the senior's home were most aware of seniors relying on alcohol during the isolation of COVID.

In our outreach to the County Senior Fair, again it was willingness to connect. Four of us participated in the fair booth. All of us, had the experience of having numerous conversations related to alcohol in the family. It was actually impressive how many seniors told us their stories. Again, we distributed AA Meeting Schedules.

Finally, we have just begun reaching out to seniors who use to attend in-person meetings but now are without access. This is an important responsibility to our fellowship and specifically our responsibility to AA's seniors. There is much to do in this regard, a well-placed phone call or maybe a social distancing visit can be really important.

I'm grateful for all that AA has provided to me and in these small ways of service I've been rewarded with a greater sense of belonging in the AA fellowship.

Who is responsible? I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. I want the hand of AA to always be there. And for that I am responsible.

Tim E.

I Think I'll Stay A While.

I have enjoyed being the Kauai representative on the Mynah Bird Committee this year, and plan to continue my service. It allows me to be creative and honest with my writing skills. I like the challenge of trying to come up with something useful, interesting, or different to write. I also enjoy the stress of having deadlines to aim for (keeps the hot coals on my feet for get-up-and-go) and trying to force myself to socialize to find current events or other members who may be willing to write an article about their experience!

As the Big Book chapter 7 reminds me, "So cooperate; never criticize. To be helpful is our only aim." and "nothing will so much insure, immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics". So there, I must be on the right track somehow, and plan to keep coming back.

Janelle S. - (Kauai)

NOTES FROM A HAS-BEEN

1.A. What are some of your responsibilities/duties for your AA service work?

B. How do these activities affect you in your life? (your schedule, your attitudes, emotions, behavior, etc.)

2 What aspect of your service is your favorite to bring you satisfaction or joy in doing it?

"What are some of your responsibilities/duties for your AA service work?"

I love this phrasing. It prevents the easy answer: "I'm Chair, I'm GSR, or this job or that." The question is, really, what do I need to do for this job or that?

This begs another question: what is "service work?" I'm doing it right now, answering this question. The person is doing it who asks me. It isn't only a titled job that makes service work: it's simply doing work in the service of AA.

They called it "the ABCs of Service," when I came around: "Ashtrays, Brooms, and Coffee, or Assemblies, Boards, and Committees." It's all service to AA. "Everything ain't for everybody," a friend told me years ago: the best kick from service is like any other work: when you're especially suited for the job you're doing. If I'm no good with numbers, and I end up as a treasurer, some unhappiness is sure to follow. But, there's nearly always the chance to learn something, to grow in ability—and character. There are various grades of "service junkies," of course. Probably (I'm guessing—we don't keep stats), the smallest population is those who never. If you've spent an appreciable amount of time in AA, you've probably performed—or attempted to

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perform—some “service position” or another; there are a gazillion openings from Group’s Greeter to General Service Board Member.

Then, there are those of us who *can’t not* have a service job for more than a few hours before we start jonesing for the next one. The true service junkies who go for twenty years straight holding a titled position on some level or another—with sparse time off. I was one of them. (That, too, has passed.)

Being a service junkie wasn’t my plan. I’m a self-seeking, self-serving addict- head who does not play well with others. I’m all in—until it doesn’t go my way. And by “it,” I mean you. And them. When the others I’m in service with (it’s never a one-man band) don’t agree with me, my knee-jerk is fight or flight.

My initial reaction is never conciliation, seeking commonality, seeing it from the other’s point of view.... Why should I? If you had a brain, you’d clearly see I’m right about the coffee brand the group needs to purchase. There’s no sense talking to you if you’re that stupid.

Of course, I would have made my case, but I missed that part of the business meeting.

Do these things really start on time? And follow an agenda?

Ultimately, my AA service required me to be on time to a meeting AND not arrive empty-handed: to have done the homework. It required me to study: I needed to know AA standard processes (the secret *Service Manual*) and parliamentary procedure (top secret *Robert’s Rules of Order*). The full complement of AA literature for “service work” required more than a *Big Book* and the *Twelve and Twelve*.

How much work was this all gonna be? It was a mountain of effort just to make my way through the Steps. Now, there were Traditions and Concepts and *Warranties*.... There were DCMs and Area Delegates and Trustees-at-Large.... And what’s in it for me? Why should I even bother?

It’s easy to get overwhelmed in new territory, and I was. But more senior members taught me to keep trudging—and to take a step or two back, if necessary. So I did.

And I saw that my very serious, consequential, irrevocable work in service to AA was me in the sandbox with the other kids, learning to play nice. Our vast efforts and enterprises in service were not world-changing endeavors. I might go home with sand in the eye or a skinned knee, or break some other kid’s toy, but all our shenanigans took place in protected confines: we weren’t going to burn down the house. We misfits had another shot at being socialized: AA service work.

Kevin (Kauai)

“The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us.”

Service, Serenity, and Gratitude in Action

I can't think about service without going back in time to when I was a newcomer to Alcoholics Anonymous. My early recollections involve timidly crossing what felt like a mile (it wasn't) of a grassy beach park to join a group of complete strangers, save an acquaintance who had invited me along. I shyly approached the group, which was nested near this characteristic bougainvillea bush. I wanted to disappear inside the bush. The fear was intense. When had I become so afraid of people? I knew I needed help, and this was the solution offered to me. I was told to keep coming back.

Eventually, my first Service opportunity presented itself. No, it wasn't the literature position I accepted a little later. It happened at the beginning of a meeting early on. Someone walked up cheerfully to me and held out a piece of paper, clearly expecting a "Yes". I was being asked to read one of the Traditional readings at the beginning. I honestly can't remember if I accepted it or not that first time, but the moment I accepted the paper and answered with a willing-ish "Yes" and following through with an attempt to read what was in front of me I had said "Yes" to being of Service to others. Though I was suffering extreme anxiety and was mortified at using my shaky mouse of a voice at a volume barely loud enough to be heard at an outdoor windy beach park, that was my first act of Service. I just didn't know it. My heart raced, and I nearly passed out a few times from the fear each time I practiced this Service to the Group. Sharing felt impossible. Later, I heard something helpful, just by showing up to a meeting, reaching out and calling/ texting someone, and participating in the "meeting after the meeting" are forms of Service.

As I attended more and more meetings, I began to hear of people talking about positions with responsibilities in the group. I was scared but intrigued. Service announcements were usually delivered with an excitement and passion. At the time, my self-confidence was nil. Then it happened, at the end of a meeting, I heard my name! Someone had nominated me to be a Literature Person. Me? This group was going to trust me with responsibility, books, decisions, and money? I was responsible with money but found this trust perplexing. I kept my commitment, 6 months of dragging a load of books across that long, hilly grass lawn four days a week. I took my commitment seriously and really brought an array of books to lay out on a Hawaiian printed pretty purple sarong that I sewed a waterproof bottom on to protect them from ground moisture. I began to realize that this position involved using my voice. I made brief announcements and after meetings, had to interact with members interested in books. I had to do math on the spot! Ugh

It sounds silly now, that such a baby step in Service and in my program had such an impact on me. But, through this humble position I began to grow a tiny bit of self-esteem. I had a new purpose. I also had a reason to interact with people and move past fear and get out of "self". I became a "part of". I stuck with the "Winners" and attended business meetings because I was like a sponge wanting to take every moment and soak it in. This is still a habit for me some years later. To say the least, my growth has been exponential because of the myriad of opportunities to be of Service in so many amazing ways. From there I became a Meeting Secretary, which taught me an important lesson

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about the Spirit of Rotation. I ended up staying in that position 2-3 months longer than the commitment because there was nobody willing to take over. My Sponsor and other Fellowship friends suggested that if I just put that binder in the middle of the circle and announce that my term was over, someone else would pick it up. It was one of the hardest things I had to do at the time, let go and trust that HP would take care of it. I had this thinking that I was letting the group down at the time, but now I know from my experience with Service, that the Spirit of Rotation has many valuable principles within it. It keeps me humble. It keeps me from getting too controlling. It balances the group, and a vacant seat provides an opportunity for someone else to step up and receive the benefits of that position. And when I leave one position, I can move to another one. In time, I served,

as Recording Secretary for a different Group and then for Intergroup, which allowed me to learn a lot by being on the Steering Committee. I always have held a soft spot for Literature, and for a few years was at many events having fun creating displays that got so intricate it became a team effort. Selling books at events was helpful for my social awkwardness. Again, I had purpose. Until that characteristic becomes removed by my HP, I will undoubtedly be presented with opportunities to practice. Other Service included being a Central Office Volunteer, Committee Chair/Co-chair for different positions in The Crossing, other Campouts, Service Assemblies, Workshops, and as Decorations Chair for an Alka-thon. What a blast! Currently, I am nearing the end of a two-panel term as my home group's General Service Representative (GSR).

What an AMAZ- ING position to have! Needless to say, this commitment has taken me FAR out my comfort zone. Traveling to places and an Island I had never been to. Meeting people from all over the State and country! I got to attend PRASAA, a huge Service conference in the Mainland for the Pacific region. I am a Trusted Servant in my Group and carry information between my Home Group to District 11-Kihei and Hawai'i Area 17 and back. Making Announcements galore has gotten much easier! I have made it a practice to always carry a Service Commitment, usually more than one which can get tricky to balance. This is where I found having a Service Sponsor to guide me is helpful. As GSR, it was suggested to focus mainly on this position as it can have more responsibilities. I do feel that having a Service position has kept me connected to the Fellowship and to my meetings right through some extremely difficult life experiences, including the years of critical hospitalizations and ultimately the death of my younger Sister in November 2019. I do not know what I would have done without my Fellowship, my Sponsor, the Principals, Steps, and Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. Service keeps me in the Solution, in Action, Connected, and Coming Back. I have a new life thanks to the gifts I have been given from my Higher Power. I'm also grateful to be of Service to my community presently as a volunteer doing things I never would've dreamed of and working with Healthcare Providers and Community Leaders during this

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un-precedented Covid-19 Pandemic. I have been part of presentations before Senators, State Representatives, and other Leaders. Writing this, my mind is blown at how sticking with this program has transformed a deathly afraid, fragile person like the old me and, through willingness and action, helps me to carry the Principals into my real-world experiences. While there's a lot of anxiety and fear in the world happening, I try to stay focused on the Primary Purpose and Carry the Message by living by the Principals to the best of my ability. And I must be exuding some amount of Serenity because the "normies" I interact with have all commented about it and seem to find it a little mystifying. If only everyone had the tools we have, the world would be better for it. Anyway, as I've said in the past, Service is Gratitude in Action, and it Truly Keeps Me Smiling!

Mahalo for letting me be
of Service! ***Dayna M.***

Aloha,

When I started my service as DCM for West Hawaii District 8 I had no idea where it would take me! In the old days, they would tell me, "Jeannie, hold onto your seat because you are in for the ride of your life." Well, this has been an amazing ride, sometimes it's a smooth straight highway and other times, a bumpy country road, especially in this COVID season, but through it all, I have grown. I have yet to come to a dead-end and I hope I never do. The beauty in all this is the incredible support of our officers, GSRs and Alternate GSRs, standing committees, the many mentors who have huge serving hearts within our district, and of course my service sponsor, Cheryl! General service has awakened my spirit to a whole new desire to dig deep into the traditions and the concepts so I can truly be a part of preserving AA as a whole. I always tell my sponsor that there is no going back knowing what I know now.

A few of my favorite moments as DCM

- Hosting the 2019 Budget Assembly: It was beautiful to watch our district and home groups pull together to provide everything needed to host a successful assembly. It takes a village and we have a great one!
- I loved being a part of district workshops: I was involved in a Safety Workshop and a Traditions Workshop as GSR and as DCM we did a workshop on The AA Group...Where It All Begins and a Secretary Workshop. So much fun!
- The sharing of ideas and experiences at area assemblies and committee meetings: It gives me chicken skin to see so many members gathered together with a great passion for the preservation of AA as a whole.

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- Our virtual district officer elections: What a wonderful experience, I could hardly contain myself! I was so excited and overwhelmed with gratitude to see our members stand and be elected as our incoming panel, Panel 71.

I do have mixed feelings about moving on but reading the section in our service manual, The Principle of Rotation-- page S24, which describes the gifts of doing so, makes it a bit easier:

- *To step out of an A.A. office we love can be hard.* I am grateful I am not alone in feeling it will be hard to step out of my service position. I have come to love AA on a whole new level.
- *But it can be a real step forward in growth – a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.* It is promising that it can be a real step forward in growth!
- *Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person.* My service sponsor shared with me that, as in a relay race, I am to pass the baton to the incoming DCM and make sure they have a firm grasp before I let go."

(Continue.)

- *With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise – we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.* I am excited to see where my Higher Power takes me. I have faith through prayer and consult with my mentors that I will be seated wherever I am most useful.

In love and service, Jeannie G DCM District 8



Orientation Assembly

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

APPROVED
COPY
GUIDELINE
INTRODUCTORY
OUTLINED
PRESENTED
STRUCTURES

CONCEPT
FORM
HANDBOOK
OPERATIONS
OVERVIEW
SERVICE
UPDATING

CONFIRMED
GUIDELINE
ILLUSTRATED
ORIENTATION
PAMPHLET
STANDARD