



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER



Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

<p>(VIRTUAL). Committee Meeting October 3rd 2020</p> <p>(VIRTUAL) Election Assembly November 7^h & 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.”

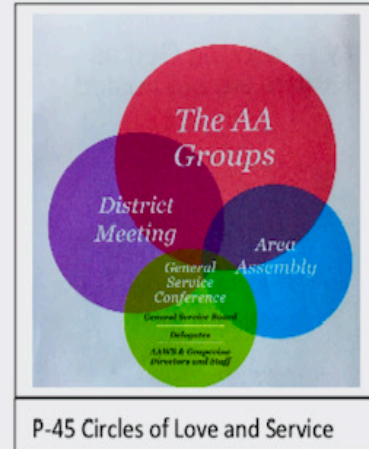
DELEGATE REPORT

Hawai`i Area 17, Panel 69

Virtual Budget Assembly

August 29-30, 2020

2020: A Clear Vision for You



Aloha Hawaii Area 17,

When 2020 started, I recalled that past delegates had told me the second year is easier than the first year. Being familiar with how past panels had fulfilled their responsibilities, I thought I knew what to expect.

In March the global pandemic changed everything. All over North America members were learning new ways to fulfill our responsibilities and keep the doors of A.A. open. Hawaii Area 17 began to learn how to be of service using a virtual platform.

I miss our face to face assemblies and committee meetings. There are conversations and coincidences that happen when we meet. These experiences along with our scheduled business help us learn from each other as friends and as trusted servants just doing the next right thing.

Although there have been disappointments, I have also experienced opportunities that wouldn't have shown up had we been meeting it the ways that have served us well. Because of the pandemic, we have gotten more tools for our A.A. service toolbox, and for that I am grateful.

When new to A.A., I figured out it helps to be teachable, willing to ask for help, listen, and change. The same is true today as I am learning how to be a delegate and sober member of A.A. during this pandemic. Past A.A. experience has taught me to hold on, there are ways to navigate these times without drinking.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service,

Coleen A. Hawaii Area 17 Delegate, Panel 69
delegate@area17aa.org

General Service Office Update

~ **GSO and AAGV/LV Staff** still work from home. After Labor Day, input from employees, medical professionals and governmental regulations will guide the decision to continue to work for home or transition back to the office.

~**8th Floor Activity**-the work is almost complete. In addition to work space, it will be used as temporary storage space for archival material currently stored elsewhere.

~**Mail sent to Box 459**- continues to be picked up by a courier, disinfected, sorted and delivered to the homes of our employees.

~**Online Access** - Consider our online resources to communicate with GSO, purchase literature, subscribe to AAGV/LA, and to make contributions via PayPal. Venmo was discontinued.

July - August 2020 Trustees

Virtual General Service Board Weekend

This was the very first virtual GSB weekend and it went very well!

After considering input our general manager, team members from Finance and Meetings, Events and Travel departments, and information from an epidemiologist: For the remainder of 2020 and for the first half of 2021 the following decisions were made:

~ **The GSB begin planning for the likelihood of a virtual 71st General Service Conference from April 18-24, 2021.**

~**2021 Regional Forums contracts were cancelled.**

Highlights from the July - August 2020 Board Weekend

Notes from Pacific Region Trustee and Highlights from A.A.W.S.

Nominations- Sister Judith Ann Karam, Class A Trustee on the GSB, will fill the NonTrustee Director spot. There will be 2 NTD vacancies to fill after the 71st Conference. Updates and details can be found in the "news" section of the Meeting Guide App.

Technology Services – The IT team is focusing on the My Portal, Webstore, and Contributions modules. Progress has been slow and the data reconciliation has been challenging. Blending three separate data bases for Contributions, Group Records and Literature sales, each with their own ID numbers and ways of organizing data, and blending those into one list has taken more time than expected. It is expected to be up and running by December 14th. The new Webstore is expected to be live by the end of August.

Meeting Guide- Management approved an update to the app supporting the display of online meetings for temporary closures and hybrid meetings. Communication with A.A. Online Intergroup is underway to see if intergroups would like to add their online meeting data to the app.

Publishing – Literature sales took a dive with the onset of Covid-19. There was a 20% increase in Big Book sales since the Summer Sale flyer went out. The 10% discount is good through August. Ebook sales continue to see a dramatic increase. Gross sales through June 2020 increased 83% (9,584 units) with an 81% increase in revenue of \$36,098.

A.A. Grapevine/La Viña- Revenue is about 13% under budget. This is mostly due to a 30% decrease in book sales to Intergroup/Central Offices. The Audio Project continues to upload stories on You Tube. The Carry the Message project is doing well with about 241 gift certificates purchased per month in 2020. Most of these are going to inmates – a great way to make a monthly 12th step call! La Viña subscriptions are down 20% since January. Most subscriptions were renewed at La Viña events, most of which have been cancelled. The website redesign is set for completion in the Fall. GV Epub app is discontinued, and has been replaced with Emag which allows month to month purchases.

Archives- Covid-19 Project - All Archivists (Area, Districts, etc.) are welcome to share experiences for an update to the Archives Workbook.

Treatment and Accessibilities- Another call for stories so we can include more diversity in the pamphlet "A.A. for the Older Alcoholic."

Corrections- A Request for sharing on how the message is being carried behind the walls during the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, in Arizona GV is on closed circuit TV to the entire yard in corrections facilities.

Literature- Work continues on draft versions of "Twelve Traditions Illustrated," a Spanish-speaking women in A.A. pamphlet, a Literature Committee workbook with shared experiences, research regarding Accessibility of the Big Book - Common Solutions, and an update to the pamphlet, "A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic."

What about AAWS and AAGV/LV Finances?

(Slides and information from the 2019 Audit)

2019 Audit Results

- ❖ The independent auditor reported that all three corporations' financial statements received unmodified opinions
- ❖ In addition, the auditors reported no material weaknesses
- ❖ The auditors made 14 recommendations to improve our processes. Management has responded to all the recommendations

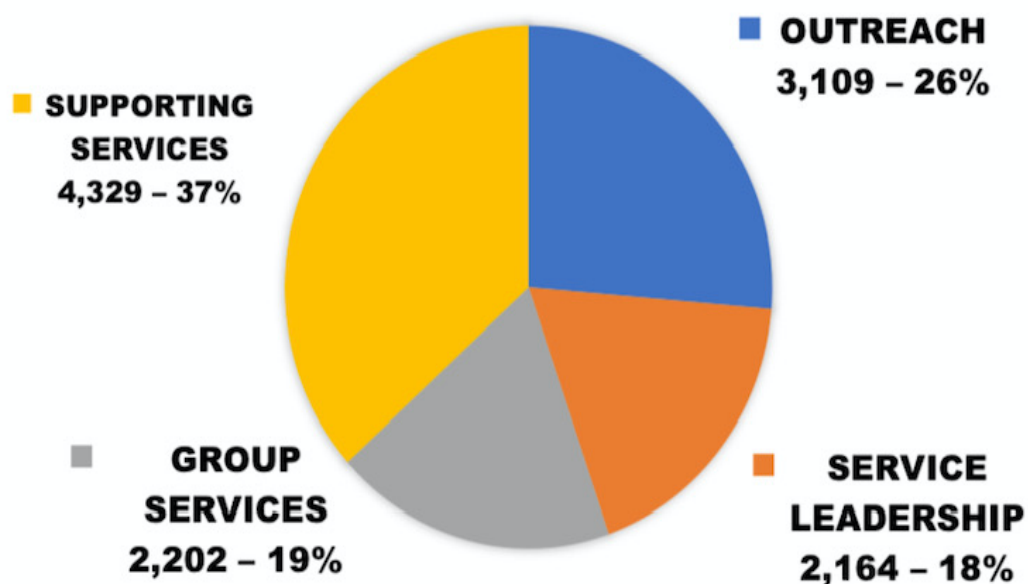
2019 Financial Highlights

- ❖ 7th Tradition of Self-Support – \$8.86 million set another record, up 5.71% from 2018
- ❖ AAWS publishing profits – \$9.36 million down 1% from 2018, used to cover shortfall between 7th Tradition and Cost of Services, resulting in net GSO loss of \$380,450 (**\$379,665 was reported in May**)
- ❖ Grapevine subscription levels decreased 2% in 2019. 2019 results were a loss of \$27,303 (**\$44,461 was reported in May**)
- ❖ General Fund support of La Viña service activity – \$297,392 (**\$289,314 was reported in May**)
- ❖ Reserve Fund – \$16.2 million resulting in ratio of 9.2 months

How much was received in the \$8.06 Challenge? **\$78,029.99!**

How much is the challenge this year? **\$8.16**

COST OF SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE FELLOWSHIP – 2019 – \$11.8 M



What about the 2020 Budget?

Budget Reforecast 2.01

• The original 2020 budget included expenses of	\$18,798,860
• Reforecast 2.01 includes expenses of	<u>\$15,867,752</u>
• A decrease of	\$ 2,931,108
• The original 2020 budget included revenue of	\$18,800,000
• Reforecast 2.01 includes revenue of	<u>\$15,702,447</u>
• A decrease of	\$ 3,097,553
• The original 2020 budget included Net Income of	\$ 1,140
• Reforecast 2.01 includes a Net Loss of	\$165,306

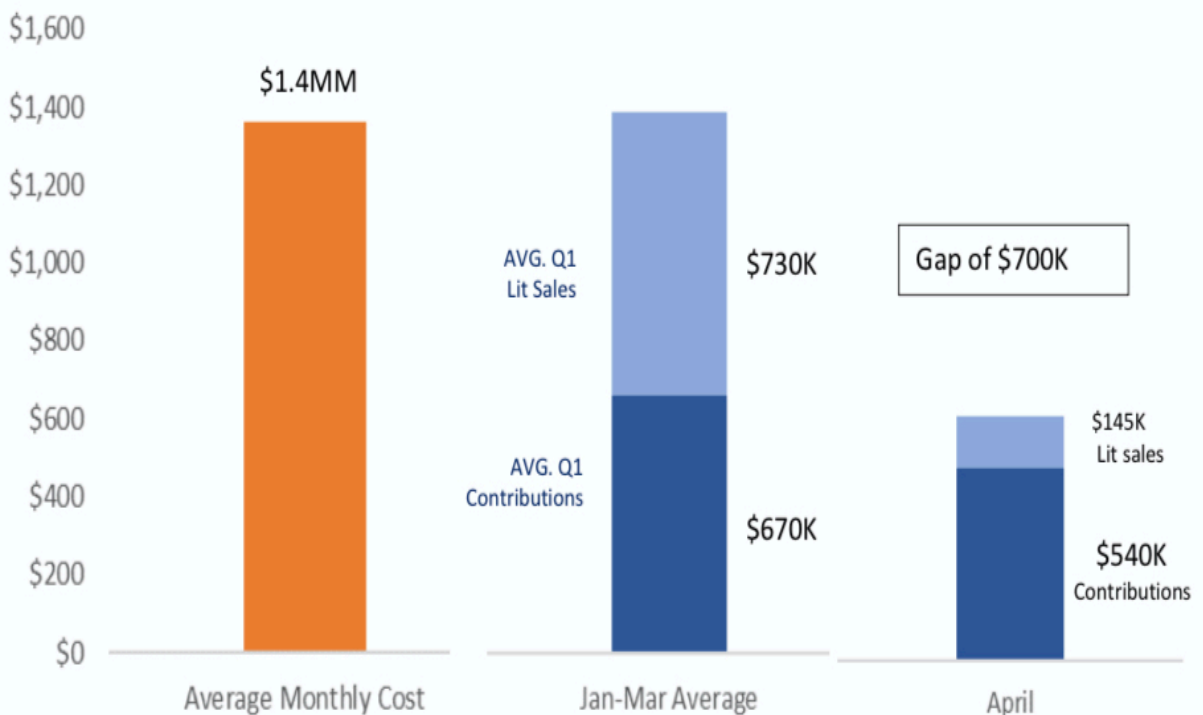
Budget Reforecast 2.01 - Savings

<u>Category</u>	<u>Savings</u>
<u>Travel, Meals & Accommodations</u>	<u>\$905,826</u>
<u>Salaries & Taxes</u>	<u>\$771,726</u>
<u>Other Program Printing</u>	<u>\$164,196</u>
<u>Mailing, labor, etc.</u>	<u>\$ 83,726</u>
<u>Postage & Express</u>	<u>\$281,716</u>
<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>\$ 81,270</u>
<u>Editorial Services</u>	<u>\$ 58,840</u>
<u>Furniture & Equipment Maintenance (Copiers, etc.)</u>	<u>\$ 25,202</u>
<u>Furniture & Equipment</u>	<u>\$ 91,337</u>
<u>Office Expense</u>	<u>\$ 76,707</u>
<u>Just these reductions save a total of</u>	<u>\$2,540,547</u>

A.A. World Services, Inc.
GSO (Consolidated) Income Statement from Jan 2020 to June 2020

FINANCIAL	ROW AMOUNT
Ordinary Income/Expense	
<u>Income</u>	
4100 - Sales	
4175 - Miscellaneous Overs/Shorts	(\$371.92)
4176 - Overseas Discounts	(\$9,058.14)
4177 - External Discounts	(\$40,635.67)
4180 - Shipping Charge	\$19,188.46
<u>4199 - Literature Sales</u>	<u>\$4,899,304.28</u>
Total - 4100 - Sales	\$4,868,427.01
<u>4300 - Contributions</u>	
4309 - World Service Meeting Literature Fund Contributions	\$20,468.41
4310 - Individual / Group Contributions	\$4,086,923.73
4351 - Delegate Fees	\$147,600.00
4352 - Additional Delegate Fees	\$103,346.28
<u>Total - 4300 - Contributions</u>	<u>\$4,358,338.42</u>
Total - Income	\$9,226,765.43

April 2020 Update Covid -19 Financial Impact- Income and Costs

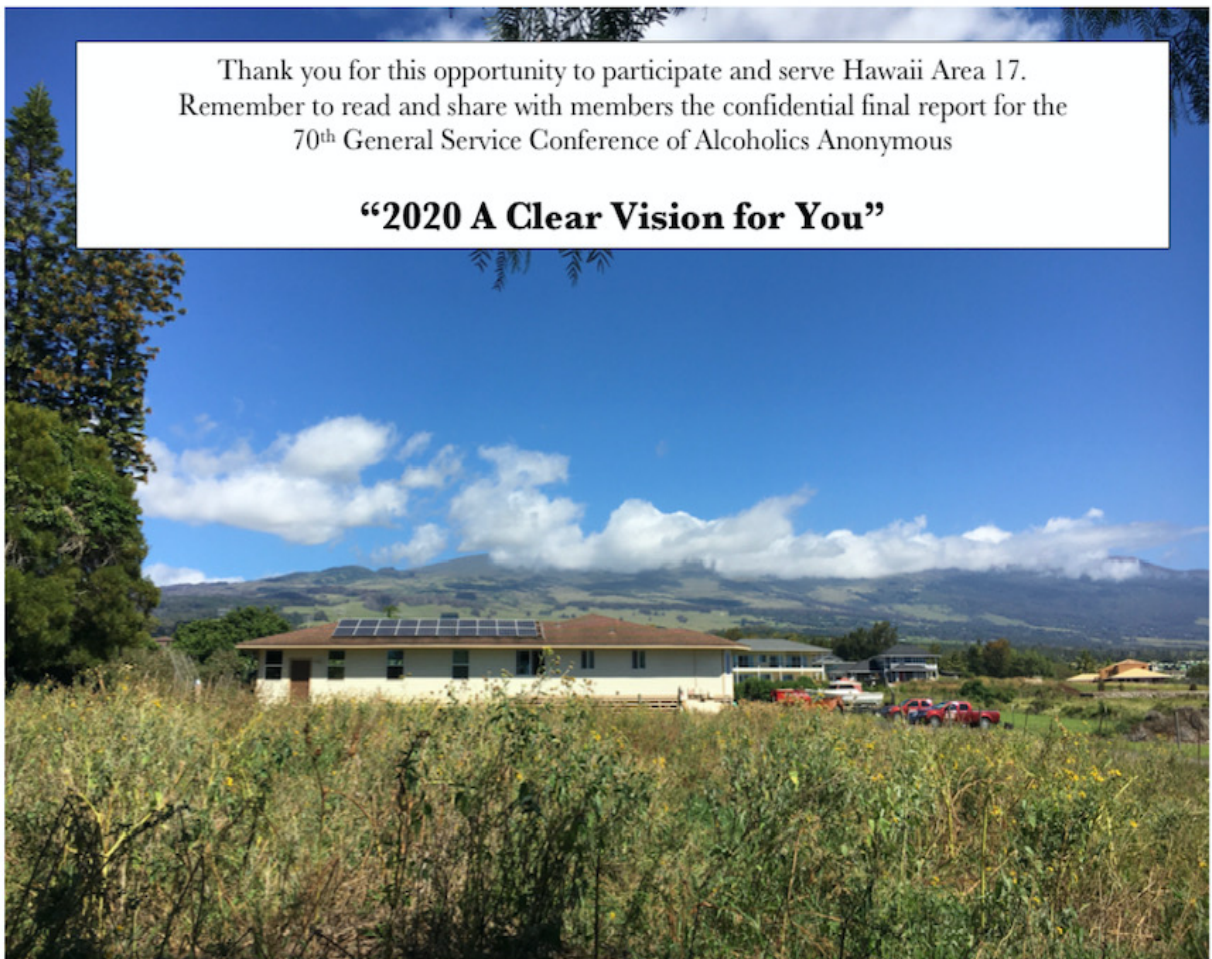
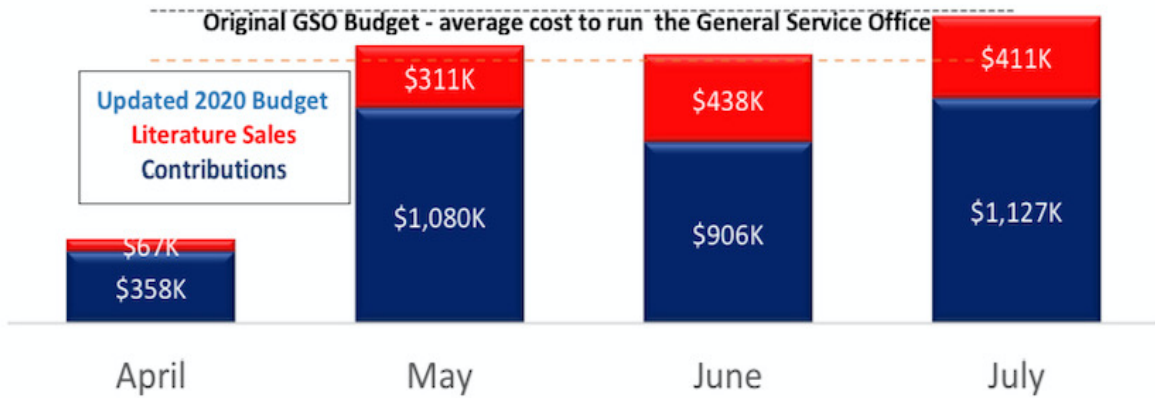


August 2020 Updated Covid-19 Financial Impact- Income and Costs

Working together- INCREASED Membership contributions and cutting costs are reducing the gap caused by a sharp decrease in literature sales

Original 2020 Budget: \$18,800 MM

Updated 2020 Budget: \$15,788 MM



Thank you for this opportunity to participate and serve Hawaii Area 17.
Remember to read and share with members the confidential final report for the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous

“2020 A Clear Vision for You”

A Declaration of Unity

***This we owe to AA’s Future;
To place our common welfare first; To keep our Fellowship united.
For on AA unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.***

2021 Budget Proposal final

Thanks to our Treasure Rachel S. and the Finance Committee, the 2021 proposed budget passed unanimously.

<http://www.area17aa.org/panel63/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2021-Budget-Proposal-Final.pdf>



-Breakdown of Budget Assembly-

- * Elections assembly will be virtual on November 7th & 8th.
- * GSO announcement- planning for virtual GSC for 2021, and all forums has been cancelled.
- * Remind all members that elections are coming up in November and help attract future general service volunteers on how rewarding general service is.
- * If your standing for an officer position you need to attend the assembly and if you want to stand for a standing committee put your name in the can at the assembly and email your committees you would like to stand for to the Area chair prior to the assembly.

Practicing the 7th Tradition

Hawaii Area is accepting 7th Tradition contributions

You may find the mailing address under the 7th Tradition tab.

Districts are accepting 7th Tradition contributions. You may find the mailing address under the District Committee Member Tab. Links are provided to Area 17 District's Home page.

If you wish to practice the 7th Tradition with GSO and Intergroup, please go to their respective websites for contribution information.

--Committee Reports--

Grapevine Committee Report

The Grapevine Committee was busy this summer. We hosted 2 well-attended online workshops with participants and committee members from all over the US and Canada, thanks to one of our committee members who emailed fliers to the 93 area Grapevine chairs. About 65 people attended the first workshop 6/20/20, Tried, True, and New for Me and You. About 10 AAs spoke about their passion for the Grapevine, many who have had photos of their meeting spaces and articles published. The second workshop 7/18/20 was a writing workshop and we had about 30 participants, at least 2 of whom submitted the articles they wrote that day for publication.

Want to help another alcoholic? Don't forget about the Carry the Message Project where groups, districts, areas, and AA friends can join in and give gift subscriptions to Grapevine and La Vina to alcoholics in need (sponsees, newcomers, prisoners, detoxes, doctor's offices, group celebrations, district and area events, giveaways). La Vina is a magazine published 6 times a year, composed of stories written by the Spanish-speaking AA community. Even if you missed the writing workshop, you can still submit your story. Right now Grapevine is calling out for stories about making amends (due 9/15), fun in sobriety (due 10/15), my favorite step (due 11/15), and dating and relationship (due 12/15). Grapevine is always accepting stories about any sobriety-related topics, and they tend to have a shortage of those about experiences with a particular concept or tradition, and always need more jokes for "At Wits End."

Checkout the September Grapevine, "Welcome to 2020: Through the wonder of technology, members are helping each other stay sober in very tough time." If you don't have a subscription to the print edition, you can always get an electronic subscription.

Don't forget about all the Grapevine books available that are compilations of stories that have been published in the Grapevine. "No Matter What: Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety," one of the books of jokes or daily quotes, or "The Best of the Grapevine: Volumes 1, 2, and 3" (now on sale) may be particularly helpful at this time.

Grapevine has a YouTube channel. Go to aagrapevine.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the YouTube link. Right now there are 8 stories available to listen to in the section "From Relapse to Recovery."

Thanks for the opportunity to be of service.

Julie G.

Area 17 Grapevine Chair

CEC Report
August 28, 2020

1. Made copy of Cooperation with the Elder Community Workbook for committee member, reviewed it and made action plan (telephone list of those willing to contact seniors).
2. Wrote article for newspaper, "How Alcoholics Maintain their sobriety with the COVID bully taking away their meeting places." Discussed how zoom meetings are terrific AND the senior perhaps not involved and isolated. When ordering from Chicago Area Service Office, the accountant there told me of "COVID" stories in their paper. Shared mine to include.
3. Continued to encourage committee members to announce at meetings to "Remember the seniors...if there are seniors not attending zoom meetings, please stay connected with them. Call them." Some groups have lists of folks willing to call senior members.

Corrections Standing Committee Report August 2020 Budget
Assembly

Aloha Fellow Trusted Servants,

We have had two all-island online meetings since my last report with limited participation and will meet again September 13th.

A.A. meetings in MCCC on Maui where opened back up with expected restrictions in July and continue as of this report. These are the only correctional meetings currently happening statewide. As the drug court program was moved to Aloha House, another meeting for men was allowed in that Wednesday time slot. There were meetings started in the Fort Island Brig that ran for 11 weeks, but were then postponed as Covid-19 cases began to rise, and there have been numerous case in some of the Oahu facilities which will likely delay activities for some time.

I have had no expenses for my budget so far this year.

Sean C., Area 17 Corrections Standing Committee Chair

Convention Steering Report

8/30/20

Aloha my name is Alberta from the Convention standing committee. Unfortunately after conversation our steering committee voted to postpone this year's Annual Hawaii Convention until 2021. The safety of the fellowship is most important to us. We will continue to put our best foot forward with the planning.

Our Treasure contacted all registrants regarding the three options: 1) roll over there money till 2021 2) refund 3) donate Due to the postponement of this year's convention, we will continue with our rotation. Judy will be exiting which leaves one vacant spot. After discussion we decided that we would reach out to the last past 10 year's chair and see if they would like to be of service. #7 accepted. At October steering meeting we will vote by third legacy.

Currently the convention is working without a secretary (one of the two paid positions) due to lack of incoming income. The steering committee and current chair will be taking on the duties of the secretary. Our treasure stayed on as a "Service Position" We are currently looking into ideas for a virtual conference the last weekend of October 2020.

In love & service,
Alberta S. Convention Standing Committee

West Hawaii Central Office Report August 2020

Aloha Trusted Servants,

The West Hawaii Central Office is doing well during these uncertain times. The office is currently open M-F 10-2 with volunteers, we are practicing safety measures with masks, sanitizer etc. and limited #s of people entering. The book and literature sales are currently doing very well. Our office manager is currently volunteering her time to make a book order.

Central Office now has a Paypal account to accept individual donations and those are coming in pretty well. We have been able to pay the rent and build up our prudent reserve. We are still approx. \$2000 below our prudent reserve but we are moving in the right direction. We want to thank all of the groups for your continued support of Central Office. We are still accepting checks through the mail as well.

We are talking about hosting a special Zoom event for Halloween and perhaps Zoom Alcahons during the Holidays. More will be revealed.

The Central Office website is still keeping track of F2F meetings as they begin/or end (as of latest county restrictions) again as well as our on-line meeting list. Please have meeting representatives contact our webmaster with any new updates.

In love and service,
Catherine W.
WHCO chair

MauI Intergroup Report for the Area Budget
Assembly August 29-30, 2020

MauI A.A. Central Office:
70 Central Avenue, Suite #1
Wailuku, Maui HI 96793
(808) 244-9673
Email info@aamaui.org
<https://aamaui.org/>

MauI Intergroup does those things that Groups would not be able to do individually – provide one phone number that people can call to find out about AA, maintain the list of A.A. meetings for Maui, Molokai, and Lanai; publish a monthly newsletter - *The Serenity Gazette* - and sponsor the Alkathons and other Intergroup annual events. We have on our website a list of meetings that have returned to in-person and a list of meetings that remain online, along with the meeting contact info. Newcomers phoning in can be connected to Twelfth Step volunteers.

MauI Intergroup cancelled the April meeting because of the stay at home orders, and has been meeting online each month since then. Our Central Office was closed for a while, but the phones continued to be answered 24/7 by our Volunteers and Central Office Manager. All of the phone shifts are currently filled, and 12-Step calls are handled by people who have signed up on our 12-Step lists by location.

We have a new Co-Chair after our former Co-Chair resigned. We replaced the air conditioner and small refrigerator in Central Office. We have not been selling as much literature, and have not purchased as much from GSO. We completed an Intergroup Inventory and got mostly positive feedback from the Groups and individuals who responded. Well done - having phones answered 24 hours per day/ 7 days per week, keeping the meetings list current and immediately updated for the online Meeting Guide app and having a stock of AA and Grapevine literature, so people are able to get the literature they want for themselves or their Group right away. By Group Conscience, we carry only AA World Services literature and AA Grapevine books, no chips or other books. There was some concern about people meeting when they were not supposed to, and the discussion included two main points, each Group is autonomous, and that the group's autonomy is superseded when its actions affect other groups or AA as a whole. A bad reputation could reasonably be expected to affect AA as a whole, and could make it less likely for someone who needs help to reach out to AA.

At least through September, our Intergroup Chair is setting up a virtual meeting and our Central Office Manager emails the meeting contact info a few days before the monthly meeting at 6 PM on the second Saturday of each month. Any A.A. can attend. Just email our Central Office Manager at info@aamaui.org.

Financially, we are in fair-to-good shape. We have a Prudent Reserve of 3-4 months normal expenses, and have not had to take money out yet. Our landlord waived the rent for 3 months due to COVID office closing (not just to AA – we are still self-supporting.) Contributions from Groups have naturally dropped off when in-person meetings stopped; some Groups did send in their contributions and online contributions have increased a little. Our IG Reps are aware that we expect we may have to withdraw from the Prudent Reserve in the next few months if things continue as is; it is not time to panic or start begging groups for money, just letting the Groups know our situation.

Thank you for letting me be of service.
- Mike L.
MauI Intergroup Secretary

Hawaii Area 17

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service
Standing Committee Report

Date:

8-29-20

Standing Committee: P.I.

Person reporting and position:

Deborah L.

Phone Number:

Email: pi@area17aa.org

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 ___PI_____ Standing Committee did to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous:

Hi Area 17 Ohana,

I really do not have much to report. As it was mentioned yesterday in the roundtable, I am following through with what I started back in January of , 2020 (our last physical assembly) which was to make more cards to pass out regarding who, what, and how to find the fellowship of AA. I did take up the suggestion of utilizing Vista Print and before you know it, the famous LOCK DOWN, became the new common language. So recently I sent out all those card that were made for each district and only 3 was returned, due to either not enough postage or wrong address. I will fix that and get them out soon. The ads that ran for a year on Oahu expired in July of 2020. Virtual events that I attended were the first Town Hall Meeting w/ Oahu Intergroup regarding this Covid-19 regarding and supported our Delegate-Colleen on the Delegate Report Back on 8-01-20. I have the privilege of informing persons who are transitioning from treatment into the community of how to get to meetings using the Zoom app, along with the phone number to the Intergroup offices on each island, depending on where they are returning to. In addition to, I have more than a (2) hand full of members of both genders that are willing to sponsor these newcomers as they adjust to this way of staying connected from all islands. That's all I got. Thank You for letting me in and being part of.

Other Topics: None

I had a Home Group I regularly attended for the first year and a half of my sobriety. I happily volunteered doing whatever was sporadically needed (like being a substitute for the literature person during a leave of absence, or making new laminated literature sticks for the stick meeting, or helping to carry the coffee and supplies to someone's car, and of course helping with setup or cleanup for holiday AA gatherings). My life situation and struggles in the AA program prevented me from seeing the importance of having a regular service commitment with my Home Group, although I always felt welcome and loved there, and I had a sense of belonging. My issues continued to revolve around placing personalities before principles and wanting things to benefit me. It's hard to do joyful service anywhere with those perspectives.

Today with social distancing, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and unable to find a way to fit in and do service.

However, I seem to fit in perfectly with the responsibility of volunteering for the local AA Hotline. Every call is different, and unpredictable, and sometimes challenging, but I have a wealth of resources available to me, and I can always ask for time to find the answer and call back.

I like the Hotline service because I have no face to face social interaction (where I still have some insecurities and tendencies to create judgement or disappointments). The Hotline allows

me to provide a solid answer or a possible solution to someone's request as quickly and efficiently as I can. It gives me focus, direction, and a delight to be helpful to someone in need. I benefit greatly by practicing social interaction with kindness and care. It's all a growing process for me. I am finding my way to learn how to forgive myself and other's in my past, to find the good that is in me that I can appreciate and love, and to become open minded to accept the world that is around me. One baby step at a time, until I am ready to embrace it entirely.

Janelle S.

Upcoming activities on Kauai (as posted on our kauaiaa.org site):

Intergroup Elections via ZOOM on Oct 3, 2020 9:30AM

District Elections via ZOOM Oct 17,2020 9:30 AM

HICYPAA ZOOM conference event on Oct 2-4,2020. 3 day event starting Fri. night at 6pm until Sun. noon with meetings and entertainment (music, comedy), activities (yoga, DIY tie dye, jack box games) panel discussion and sobriety countdown. More details at HICYPAA2020.org
(Zoom ID# 3922480323)

The Way Out of the Rough golfing speaker meeting event by Kauai's Happy Hour group on Fri. Oct 23, 2020 at the Princeville Makai Golf course 9:30am-11:00am. \$45 fee to play golf, \$5 contribution to attend. Call 651-8175 for details.

Kauai Happy Hour ZOOM group has a CONCEPTS WORKSHOP starting Sept 27, 2020 5pm every Sun thereafter for each 12 concepts. Zoom ID# 606-777-550, PW 521400

Janelle S.

“Laughter during Covid is Much Better.”

“When World War II broke out, this spiritual principle had its first major test. A.A.’s entered the services and were scattered all over the world. Would they be able to take discipline, stand up under fire, and endure the monotony and misery of war? Would the kind of dependence they had learned in A.A. carry them through? Well, it did. They had even fewer alcoholic lapses or emotional binges than A.A.’s safe at home did. They were just as capable of endurance and valor as any other soldiers. Whether in Alaska or on the Salerno beachhead, their dependence upon a Higher Power worked. And far from being a weakness, this dependence was their chief source of strength.” -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

I may attain humility for today only to the extent that I am able to avoid the bog of guilt and rebellion on one hand and, on the other hand, that fair but deceiving land which is strewn with the fool’s-gold coins of pride. -As Bill Sees It

Several days ago, I attended my usual early morning meeting - on zoom! Before the meeting began several “regulars” were commenting about zoom and the separation many feel without the in-person meetings. In my mind, I became critical of the distance zoom requires and ultimately how this pandemic “has ruined my life!” As the meeting went along I began to turn the “camera” on myself, and noticed, since I wasn’t having fun no one else should either! (It is after all, ALL about me!).

I was reminded of early AAs who did not have regular, in-person meetings to attend. Or those isolated by hospitalization, prison, war, or loneliness. It seems seriousness is all around me, demanding attention. And how grateful I am for the many, daily opportunities I have to connect with another AA, albeit via Zoom. Am I attaching absolute importance to “my” ideas, issues, events and even to my story in a prideful way. Are my Covid complaints another way for me to convey my “importance” and maybe “worthiness.” Could it be, that I’m linking my uncomfortableness with a demand for “my way.” Isn’t this just control - something I came to believe in as I lived “under the lash of alcoholism.” The “rapacious creditor” wanted ALL CONTROL. And, isn’t this the great temptation? To play God.

Meanwhile, back to the meeting. After some reflection, I think I was wrapped up in AA piety - pride unleashed. I know what a real meeting should look like and now everything isn’t the way

I’ve become accustomed to. Zoom isn’t for me. But how does God see it? I suspect God would prefer me to be of good humor.

Humor, like humility, comes from the same root word for humanity: humus. The lowly and sustaining earth is the source for all three words. Is it any surprise that we have to have a sense of humility to be able to laugh at ourselves and that to laugh at ourselves reminds us of our shared humanity?

I’ve heard it said, people who laugh have a sense of abandon and ease. They are less likely to have a heart attack than those people who are really serious and who have difficulty connecting with other people. Those serious people are in real danger.” Aren’t I overly serious and self-important? Well, not always, but sometimes.

So, again, here I am. Self-centered pride limiting my connection to others via Zoom, which, if I choose is only limiting how my Higher Power speaks to me and therefore limits my “joy.” So again, steps 1,2 and 3. “I can’t, God can, I’ll let him.”

Article from CEC Chair:
Mare L.

Elections

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

ACCEPT
BASKET
COUNT
ELECT
NOMINATE
PROPOSAL
ROUNDTABLE
VOTE

ADJOURN
CHAIR
DECLARATION
FORMAT
OPEN
QUALIFY
STAND

ASSEMBLY
CONFIRM
DELEGATE
LUNCH
POSITION
REPORT
TREASURER

