

Panel 71 Election Assembly Edition



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming	Send Seventh Tradition Contributions
<p>January 21 & 22, 2023 Panel 73 Orientation Assembly District 8, West Hawaii</p> <p>Winter Committee Meeting (Feb. 2023) Puna District 12 East Hawaii</p> <p>PRAASA – March 3 – 5, 2023 Hosted by Southern California Area 05</p>	<p>Hawaii Area Committee P.O. Box 1413 Honolulu, HI 96806</p> <p>General Service Office P.O. Box 2407 James A Farley Station New York, NY 10116-2407 (Make checks payable to General Service Board)</p>

In this issue: Stories from our members, year-end summaries from Panel 71 officers and standing chairs, flyers for upcoming events in Area 17.

"The content of the Mynah Bird is a reflection of the vibrant and diverse A.A. community in Hawaii Area 17."

From our members

Note from Editor: When my home group, Kihei Morning Serenity went virtual at the beginning of the pandemic, we gained some members from far away places. Randy is one of those members who has continued to attend our meetings online -- we are now online 3 days a week, in person 4 days a week. We had a chance to meet Randy in person when he and his wife had a stopover in Maui while on a cruise. I asked him to write an article.

The Love that is Fellowship.

Shortly after the pandemic hit, I heard that many groups had gone online. My home group being one, and I took the position of opening it each Tuesday afternoon. I also wanted to find other meetings which I could attend virtually on a regular basis. I looked up a group we had attend many years earlier on a vacation to Maui, which my wife and I enjoyed most mornings, KMS.

Sure enough, KMS was online every morning, and the time worked well for our Pacific time zone at home. At first, I made certain every Thursday I did not miss it, (I love a Grapevine meeting!), then I found myself attending other mornings and eventually most mornings.

As I discovered early in my AA journey, it was nice to arrive at meetings early and I could get to know the other members, it helped strengthen that feeling of belonging. I found that this experience of getting to know those which arrived early also builds that wonderful feeling of fellowship, even if they were another country away, and on a small screen.

The Program of AA, as I continue to experience it, has changed (always for the better), and one of the early realizations for myself was that I began to take an interest in my fellows. Coffee after the meetings, conferences, roundups, district picnics etc. Naturally many of these activities have been curtailed and so too the personal contact that is part of our program. Not forgetting that the situation Covid brought us is not new, AA Loners Internationalists meetings have been around for many decades.

Over this past 30 months my life has been enriched with the messages I hear at AA meetings which I have found online in distant places from members I would not necessarily have met. But probably none more than those from that KMS morning meeting and those attending from other islands, states, provinces and countries.

As the world began getting back on its feet my wife and I were anxious to get away on a vacation, and were able to include a day visit to Maui. That day will be forever in our hearts and spirit, a couple of those wonderful members from the island picked my wife and I up with beautiful fresh Leis and the Warmth and Love that I believe is referred to as Aloha. That day started with a wonderful trip round some amazing spots to walk around and take photos on our route to Kihei. There we attended a wonderful noon meeting and were able to meet in person so many of our new friends and hug, thank and be filled with joy and gratitude to these members who have helped me to grow over this past 2 ½ years.

After the Primary Purpose meeting, we enjoyed the fellowship on breaking bread at a local restaurant where more members from KMS joined us and the spirit of Aloha was flowing.

I Love God and AA and am a better person through the fellowship that is such a great part of this program.

Peace, Love, Laughter, Faith.

Randy P.

Maple Ridge BC

My Home Group - November 7, 2022

I joined a new home group about two months ago. It's called "On Awakening" and is only on Zoom. When I started attending the group there were several people that I already knew and that made it more inviting.

One of the members is a woman who helped me tremendously when I first started attending AA in January 2002. Through her support I realized that it's not ok to continue taking Xanax.

The member who started On Awakening is also someone I met in early 2002. He is our former delegate and I find it comforting to see him on the screen.

The GSR for the group is my neighbor in a large condominium. We can attend Area Assemblies together as well as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year Alkathons.

What attracted me to this group is that the shares are very heartfelt and I can relate to them. The shares are filled with hope even if the situation is distressing. The group has mature sobriety as well as newcomers who inspire the oldtimers.

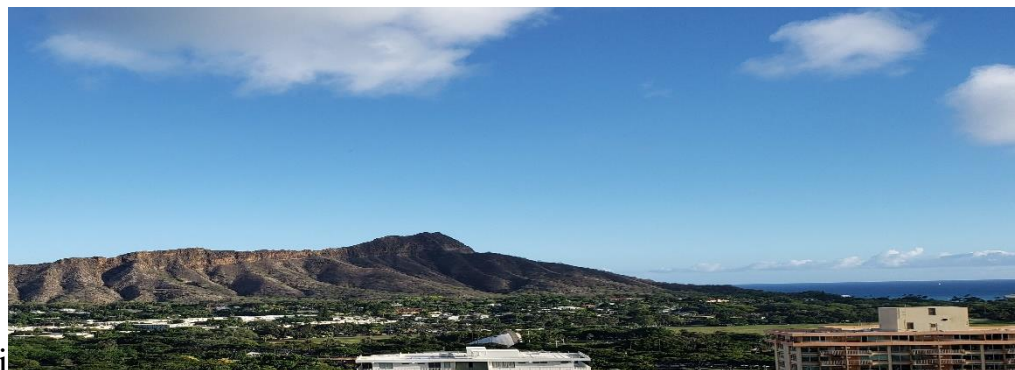
As the days go by, am beginning to recognize the faces of people who attend regularly and looked forward to seeing them. The interesting thing is that a woman reached out to me for sponsorship and I said yes. Although I've never met this woman in person, I now feel very close to her and we contact each other daily.

Another member in "On Awakening" is in the Grapevine Writing group which meets once a month. This allows me to see some members in person. The Grapevine writing group has turned into a solid support meeting which cushions rough times with health issues.

My sense is that sometimes the easier path is ok. I don't have to wake up at 5:00 am and drive 5 miles to attend a morning meeting. Instead, I can wake up at 6:00 and leisurely drink my coffee until 6:30 when the zoom meeting starts. In conclusion, I'm reminded of "attraction rather than promotion" which is exemplified by the On Awakening group.

Linda T.

Honolulu, HI



Bill M. – My Story

In 1989 my long-time love affair with alcohol and drugs came to an abrupt halt when my wife decided to pack up the children and leave back to her home state California. By this time as I see it today, she was tired of the high strung life and all the anticipation of something bad happening. Most of all, she knew that I didn't have it in me to realize that my involvement with alcohol and drugs and all that came with a risky lifestyle was jeopardizing the very thing that I valued the most. And that was my family. Today I thank her for 12-stepping me by staying sober and providing a nurturing and positive environment for both of us. I thank GOD for empowering me to do so on a daily basis.

By the time I realized my wife had gone back to California I was submerging my feelings in alcohol and drugs to the extent that it stopped deadening the pain and despair. My emotions overruled the state of mind that alcohol and drugs had on me. So I called my dad who had no clue what I was involved in. You see I had a business partnership with my dad as a locksmith and security consultant managing major accounts throughout the State of Hawaii generating finances to afford a very lucrative lifestyle. Nevertheless, I told him what was going on. Of course he was devastated but was willing to help. I checked into a treatment center and the only thing I remember is they provided a safe place and took me to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. I immediately related to those who spoke about their experiences with alcohol, drugs and the associated feelings of loss, despair, deceitful living and family discord. After all, I was going through the same thing.

I stayed in treatment for about 30 days. Upon my departure and returning to my lifestyle, I immediately hung onto the AA fellowship. I went to daily meetings, gatherings after the meetings, round ups, camp outs and fellowship with other recovering alcoholics and addicts. Amazingly my family returned home after several months to a home that was still intact. My wife had also gone to Alanon until she realized that she belonged in AA as well. We were fortunate to find such loving people who accepted us and supported our recovery until we were able to get our lives back on track with minimal losses to our personal and professional lives. Things were going very well and we were on our way. We had arrived!

At about 8 months of sobriety, my wife was involved with a group of women, and she was doing her sobriety and I was hanging with a group of men maintaining my sobriety. We were heavily involved in the fellowship and enjoying this new found life. All was fine and dandy!

One night I was coming home from an AA meeting on my motorcycle with not a care in mind. It was a clear night and I was enjoying the cool air and the ride home. For some reason beyond me I thought it would be a great idea to go see my older brother and tell him how well I was doing. Honestly not thinking about drinking

or using. After all, things were going well. We spoke a bit about how I was doing. You see I also owed him a great deal for what he had done for me when I was at my worst. I felt I owed him to let him know I was okay. Without getting into details of my discussion, he offered me a package, I took it with no hesitation whatsoever, no thought processing, just a reaction. Mind you, I was in the best state of mind since my last use 8 months ago. Things were going well at home. I did think that maybe things can be different this time. So I took the package. Today when I look back at that moment I realize that I had stayed sober by just attending AA meetings and the fellowship alone. The psychic change the big book talks about hadn't taken place in my life because I didn't embrace the entire concept of the term powerless and I forgot the despair, desolation and misery my drinking and using did to me just 8 months ago. I had no mental defense whatsoever.

I drank and used for the next 2 years while my wife continued to manage her sobriety. Luckily she had this group of women who supported her through my alcoholism and addiction until she decided to pack up the children and leave once more. She could not believe that we were at this place again. After all the promises I made to her time and time again. By this time, I had lost the lucrative business partnership I had with my dad and every material possession that meant anything to me. We were also losing our home because I could not afford to pay for anything with no income. It was January of 1992.

I did the next best thing and went back to AA hoping to find my family. I knew my wife was still on the island and actively attending meetings. However, she made herself scarce. I knew she didn't want anything to do with me. When I look back, I realize today that she did what she had to do. I thank GOD today for this woman for her courage especially when I didn't have any myself.

By the grace of GOD, I stayed sober (white knuckle sobriety) and moved into a clean and sober house and once more started attending AA meetings, and hung on to the men of the fellowship. I walked into a Big Book study group one evening and they were about to start the third step prayer. I got on my knees like everyone else in the room and started praying not knowing why. All I knew and what occupied my mind was my family. I knew I had really screwed up this time. It was also the first time since I can remember that I said a prayer. When I look back, I realize that GOD was doing for me that I couldn't do for myself. All I had to do was ask. From that day on, every morning I prayed. I continued with that book study. This is where the 12-step program unfolded before my eyes. I started to understand the condition I was suffering from and if I wanted to pursue a more productive and fruitful life there were a few things I needed to do. By the time I got through the first four chapters of the book, I was convinced that I needed to incorporate the 12-step program into my life. Getting sober was only a part of it. I needed to find a way to stay sober. By this time I was working with a

sponsor who was actually leading the book study. I thank GOD for this man every day. He helped me realize the true meaning and value of trusting GOD, clean and keep your house in order, and help others. When I was in doubt about something in my recovery, I consulted my sponsor and the men he hung around with. As time went on, my family returned only by the grace of GOD. I had the opportunity to clear my wreckage and make amends to my children, my wife and countless others. I've taken this 12-step program and incorporated it into my life just like the book intended. I know what it feels like to experience those promises the book talks about. For the last 30 years of my recovery I haven't found it necessary to drink or use one day at a time. I am not the man I used to be because of AA. I have experienced the psychic change the book talks about. As a result, I make it a point to give of my time to serve this wonderful program by being available for others like me. I've been afforded a career working in the field of substance abuse for the last 25 years and obtained several degrees. I have everything I need to live a great life once again. However, on different terms. When I look back, I thank my wife for mustering up the courage to derail me and my addiction on several occasions. Only someone who believes in GOD would have endured what she went through with me. I thank my sponsor for introducing the 12-steps and much more about this program to me and helping me realize what was important in life. He is still my sponsor today. My sponsor would always say "Don't thank me, thank GOD". And last but not least, I want to thank GOD for the people in my life who he has empowered to help me become who I am today. The greatest gift this program has afforded me is GOD. After all, it is the main purpose of the book. I'm glad I did not know this at the beginning but I'm grateful I know this today. I've been given a second chance! Thank GOD for AA and thank AA for GOD.



Officer Reports

Note from editor: Because this issue is for the Election Assembly, I thought it was appropriate to ask the Panel 71 officers to reflect on the past two years.

Alternate Delegate Summary

Aloha Area 17,

I am a little embarrassed to admit this is my first writing that I have submitted to the Mynah bird in this panel. Before I give my Panel 71 summary report, I would like to share the wonderful time I had at the 59th Annual Hawaii Convention. I am grateful I had the opportunity to serve our Area and convention as a steering committee member, being back together in person after 2 years was such a special occasion for all of Hawaii and those visiting from all over the world. Love and Unity were in full force. Seeing old friends and meeting new ones especially my sisters and brothers from the mainland and other islands from our homegroup Defective Characters, the love and unity from being together at home group, then meeting each other face to face spiritually filled my weekend. Can't wait to attend next year with Erin as convention Chair. Thank you, Bill M. Convention Chair, and the 59th Annual Hawaii Convention Steering Committee and volunteer committees for a great convention.

As for Area 17 panel 71 I cannot explain how much being Alt Delegate has enhanced my recovery, service, and unity. My favorite duty as being the alt. delegate is being able to help orientate our GSRs in Hawaii, sharing how AAs structure works and help our DCMs navigate our service structure, giving away freely what passed on to me is so fulfilling for the spirit and for the love of alcoholics.

I must admit that having our last 2 committee meetings and the Budget assembly face to face with a virtual option is a great step back to building unity and the love of service for our area, I am also very excited to go back to pure face to face assemblies and possibly being a little prudent and use the virtual platform for certain committee meetings.

I have to thank our panel 71 officers for all the support and unity and helping me grow in service and spiritually, and to our standing committee chairs and DCM's, Hawaii area 17 has a great future of being in the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous worldwide.

Working with our delegate Kunane D. also has been a spiritual journey not just for this panel but closely working together for the last 3 panels and being part of area for the last 8 panels, all I can say is I love my brother and thank him for sharing his experience for service and recovery with me.

Hawaii Area 17 has persevered through this terrible pandemic, being a strong area for service I look forward for area attendance to pick up and our tradition of having well informed home groups I for see our area being super focused on our PRIMARY PURPOSE and make sure AA is there for all alcoholics to find recovery and spirituality.

Aloha and Mahalo for my wonderful life I have today.

In Love and Service,

Tommy G.

Area Chair Report

Aloha, my name is Deborah S., Chair Area 17, Panel 71,

“In closing, let Communication and Responsibility fortify our journey as we serve in Panel 71.”

That was the closing in my January 9, 2021, orientation assembly report. I presented two initiatives to the assembly body: communication and responsibility.

Although the pandemic might have served as a challenge with Area Standing Committee work, the *Area Standing Committee Chairs* persevered carrying the message through AA literature and online workshops. They serviced the communities they represent for Area 17 at-large, Hawaii Island, Maui, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, Oahu & Kauai.

Committee chairs, their appointed GSRs and volunteer AA members conducted workshops, participated in other Area workshops, General Service Office (GSO) forums, keeping us informed with up-to-date committee information from the GSO. Thank you, committee chairs, for Archives, Convention Steering, Cooperation with the Elder Community, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Grapevine, Mynah Bird, Public Information, Treatment & Accessibilities, and Website, for your commitment to service.

District Committee Members (DCMs) and their alternates huddled with their group's GSRs to be the voice of the Area and to their District's AA members. District's hosted Area business meetings giving us a virtual platform to conduct business. DCMs showed up to carry their Districts' voice to the Committee Meetings. DCMs, where they could, involved themselves in local AA events hosted by their group's including other circles. Their presence in any AA activity proved their support for their District, community, and Area 17 service at large. Thank you for your commitment to service!

Each *Intergroup/Central* office, the 911 to our local fellowship, is autonomous and is part of a network of service outlets and AA contacts. They provide vital services which include maintaining local meeting information & meeting lists, they provide a literature and pamphlet library for purchase, maintain websites with local information, and responding to phone calls and other inquiries from those seeking help. Hosting workshops from personal recovery, Twelve Tradition education, Twelve Concept education, service in AA education, and of course reminding us we are not a glum with AA trivia. These activities afforded constant connection with the groups and the fellowship of their local communities in Hawaii. Thank you for your commitment to service.

General Service Representatives (GSRs) and their alternates carrying the message of their groups to the District, Area, GSO, General Service Conference (GSC), you served well as the voice of your group echoing their conscience all the way to the general service conference. You also reverberated the message of the respective committee work you were appointed to. Your efforts to resound the message from GSO and the GSC to your groups reiterate the importance of your trusted servant position. Thank you for your commitment to service!

Last, but not least, *Area Officers*, thank you for your prudence & vision (Concept IX) support & past-experience (Concept IV), love & tolerance signifying trust (Concept III) and giving of mutual respect (Concept XI). From our first order of business, appointing the area standing committee chairs to transitioning from all virtual to hybrid area business meetings to wrapping up panel 71 with a (fully) in person elections assembly giving guidance to Unity (Tradition 1) our Responsibility (Concept I). I am ever so grateful.

To the leading hand of our *Area Past Delegates*, thank you, for taking the time to participate in our assemblies, committee meetings and workshops. Thank you for offering your service & passing along the wisdom bestowed you through humility and continued service. May we hold fast to your grip that we may grab on to those willing to serve and so on for the future of A.A.

In your reflections, recognize how well you served in your service positions. Please, accept my gratitude for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous: To serve in general service is to light the way for those who don't yet know who we are and

that we exist. We exist because you serve: “The primary purpose of Hawaii Area Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous is service.”

I hope you will agree with me, that together our leadership in service, better phrased as servant-leadership, during Panel 71 proved, we united with a sense of duty and constant communication to strengthen our area membership. It has been a pleasure to serve Hawaii State, Area 17 Alcoholics Anonymous Panel 71.

Are you interested in standing for the position of Area chair --- some things to think about!!

1. What is the best part of your position? Conducting area business meetings.
2. What is the toughest part? Publishing and presenting an agenda thirty days before each committee meeting and assembly was challenging.
3. What do you wish you knew before you started your position – and would like to pass on to the next person in your position? I would like to pass on to the next area chair: Preside over the area assembly and committee meetings, do it well and smile when you do it. Attend your intergroup meetings aiding sobriety effectiveness in your community at large. Support the standing committee chairs in their pursuit to service their respective communities.

Remember...practice Warranty Five of Concept Twelve. “That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.” Punitive not against others. Punitive not against yourself.

Remember twice... Says the old proverb, “Shoemaker, stick to thy last.” Trite, yes. But very true for us of AA. How well we need to heed the principle that it is better to do one thing supremely well than many things badly.” Tradition 5.

Thrice remember...Keep it simple

Alternate Chair Report

Jeannie G.

Alternate Chair

Hawaii Area 17, Panel 71

Panel 71 Summary Report

2021/2022

Aloha Hawaii Area 17,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve as Panel 71 Hawaii Area 17 Alternate Chair. Serving on Panel 71 has stretched me well beyond my comfort zone and with that came much growth.

What a surprise to be pulled out of the hat to serve as Alternate Chair! I was excited but I must confess, fearful! I am very grateful to Deborah S, our current Chair, who met with me to clarify the duties and responsibilities in my new position. She was very encouraging and did an amazing job at passing the baton. I was extremely grateful to her for easing my mind and I am grateful to be surrounded by fellow members and especially Cheryl N, my service sponsor, who gave freely of what they have learned in area service. I never serve alone.

My main objective as Alternate Chair is to support our Area Chair in running smooth assemblies and committee meetings and to perform her duties in her absence. Here is a summary of my activities as Area Alternate Chair:

- Participated in Plan-to-Plan Meetings with area officers.
- Attended Finance Committee Meetings during lunch at assemblies and committee meetings, when needed.
- Served as the Big Island Finance Committee representative and presented the area’s proposed budget to districts and home groups as requested.

- Attended the Annual Hawaii Convention Steering Committee Meetings once a month as a voting member throughout the panel as well as attending the monthly Annual Hawaii Convention Committee meetings as a voting member during the first year. Attended the Hawaii Annual Convention in October of 2022 as a part of the steering committee.
- Supported the area registrar by creating the online registration forms for eight assemblies and six committee meetings.
- Helped review the revised GSR Handbook.
- Supported our area chair in working with and meeting with tech teams twice before each assembly and committee meeting.
- Work behind the scenes with hosting tech teams at our committee meetings and assemblies.
- Collaborated with our Area Chair to create the document “Guidelines for Tech Team: Hosting Virtual Area Meetings”.
- Facilitated roundtable discussions at assemblies.
- Attended PRAASA both years.
- Attended West Hawaii Central Office and West Hawaii District 8 meetings.
- Worked more closely with hosting DCMs and committee chairs in the second year, as we moved towards in-person assembly and committee meetings.

I am excited we are moving back to in-person assemblies. In-person meetings give our districts greater opportunities for service. Their home groups pull together to put on the event by providing meals, homestay, and transportation, which fosters relationships, builds trust, and creates unity within the hosting district. When we attend in-person area meetings, eat together, take advantage of homestay and transportation, and serve side-by-side with fellow members, it fosters relationships, builds trust, and creates unity within the entire Hawaii Area.

A few times on this panel, I have heard it said that moving to in-person meetings is too much work. When I hear that said I want to ask “do we mean service work”. For me “service is survival”. Through self-sacrifice, service not only keeps me sober but it gives me opportunities to grow, develop a sense of duty and responsibility, and a chance to build relationships with members sharing a common purpose which, again, fosters unity, and trust and always produces unexpected gifts.

We have a unique opportunity here in Hawaii, to live in what is considered a “remote community”. To fly to our area meetings, be picked up by someone we may or may not know, and stay in the home of someone we may or may not know. It really is like the old days when Bill W and Lois would open up their homes to fellow suffering alcoholics”. Being a “remote community” opens up many more opportunities for service. I truly believe that the obstacles of being a “remote community” are a gift and the reason our area has been so strong in service.

I always ask myself “do I only serve when it is convenient for me? If so, am I really serving? I have received my greatest gifts serving when it was most inconvenient.

Alcoholics Anonymous is all about unity and the Declaration of Unity tells us our lives depend on it. I am so very grateful to be such a small part of an even greater whole, our wonderful Hawaii Area 17 and this incredible movement called Alcoholics Anonymous.

In love and service, Jeannie G. Alt Chair Panel 71

My Experience and Lessons Learned – Panel 71, Secretary

Aloha, my name is Deborah L., grateful member of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and I served as your Secretary for Area 17/Panel71, 2021 to 2022. My first introduction to service in the Area stems back to Panel 63 during which at that time, I was the GSR for my home group.

I wasn't really sure as to how I was supposed to start this and of course, I am so grateful for this program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the fellowship, here is where I learned that no questions is dumb and it's okay to ask for help and I asked our Delegate, Kunane D. for help. What stuck to me was his last words, "Mary, no think too hard, keep it simple, (LOL).

What did I do? I attended area committee and assembly business meetings whether virtual/hybrid or in person and prepared the minutes on or at the least before the next area business meeting. I remained open and available to share what we do to anyone that were interested in service at this level with excitement on the deep connection amongst the fellowship not only in Hawaii but with the world, the comrade, the lasting relationships, the structure, the excitement of meeting and greeting each other as if we haven't seen each other for years, the joy, the meeting before or after the meeting, and the love and passion for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

I attempted to record my first several meetings that started out virtual and that did not work for me. What I found easier was to clear my mind, listen, and pay attention. I took notes in between and also typed during the meetings. Keying in to the most important information got easier as time went on, because for me, all that is said is important. What was helpful was the take-away that our Chair, Deborah S. provided at the end of each meeting. I also found the area email along with the area website extremely helpful when I missed a report that needed to be included in the minutes. I thank all of the District Committee Members, Standing Committee Chairs, Area Officers and our Area Webmaster for your involvement and services.

In closing, I just want to extend and express my gratitude to everyone for the opportunity to experience all these years, the meaning of Unity, Recovery and Service. Unity because I got to be a part of this fellowship and develop lasting relationships with like-minded people. Recovery, because no matter how intense the dialog may have gotten, principles always took precedence over personalities. Lastly, Service because, all of you who suit up and show up whether you are new or been here for a while, you inspire me to continue this journey of recovery and helping me to become a part of something greater.

Mahalo,

IN LOVE AND SERVICE,

Deborah L./ Secretary

Area 17/ Panel 71

Registrar Report

Aloha my name is Eric and I'm an alcoholic. It has been my pleasure to serve you as the area registrar For the last two years. One of our duties as officers is to give a final report about our experience over the last two years.

As we all know it has been a strange two years. The pandemic change the way Area does business, possibly no more so than for the registrar. The pandemic had many negative aspects but one of the good things that came out of it was our streamlining of the registration process for assemblies and committee meetings. So much less paperwork and the box of stuff I will pass on has gotten much smaller.

Another thing that happened during my two years was the introduction of the new GSO database. It has made things much easier for getting reports etc. There were alot of hiccups and kinks to smooth out and there still are a few as the pandemic slowed the process alot but GSO has pretty much got it down now.

Early on in my position I had asked all the DCMs for updated lists of meetings they knew of so I could streamline the database at GSO but I got very little responses. Looking back I should have kept on it and will be helping the new registrar to do just that. There are many groups that simply don't exist anymore, especially due to the pandemic.

I want to thank all of you for working with me these last 2 years and I'm looking forward to seeing you all next panel God willing.

Aloha
Eric V.
Area registrar



Standing Committee Reports

Area 17 Archives Panel 71 Summary

Aloha my name is Ernest and I'm an alcoholic. I served as the Archives Chair for Area 17 Panel 71 from 2021 to 2022. When I was asked to Chair the Archives position, I instantly accepted. I did not know anything about doing the Area Archives, but it meant that I'll be able to stay sober for another 2 years. Not that I'm struggling with staying sober but being connected to A.A. in Area 17 and staying in touch with friends I made on other islands was more rewarding to my recovery than the actual service work. I believe the panel before me started the digitization of the Area Archives. Therefore, I did not need to collect any hard copies or paper materials to archive. I basically saved it to PDF form from the computer and re-name it to file it accordingly. I created folders for Assemblies, Committee meetings, Districts, reports, standing committees and area officer's. Then I would be given access to the google drive so I'm able to send it to the area webmaster to be uploaded on the Area website. I've been able to develop a system that works for me and the thing I've learned about Area Archives is that I'm only archiving material pertaining to and relating to Area 17. Everything that involves Area 17 and or members of Area 17 is what I'm working with. If it's a function in A.A. and doesn't have anything to do with Area 17 then I don't save or file that document as it's a piece for that group to archive. It's been an amazing and awesome two years in which I've enjoyed that service position. I believe every group should have and archives chair, just so they can account for their history. That's all I have and thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Aloha! Ernest S. Outgoing Archives Chair, Area 17 Panel 71

Cooperation with the Professional Community

My position in as CPC Chair was for half the term but I love it. My duties as the Cooperation With the Professional Community chair was to share information about the AA program with professional who have contact with professionals who have contact with alcoholic, furthering mutual understanding and cooperation. This committee and I faced challenges because of Covid 19 also presenting or talking to professionals were hard but it's by easier to because it's getting more easier maybe the professionals will listen to what we have to offer. To next person who does this position go in with an open mind, don't try to do by yourself -- form a committee. This is only suggestions. I had three women Mare, Ann, and Karen who had cards made and we took it to Doctors, hospitals, policemen, attorneys, and clinics to spread the information what Alcoholic Anonymous does to help the suffering alcoholic and share with them there is hope without drinking alcohol. Just wanted to thank the Area officers for letting me serve the area Its an awesome feeling to helping the suffering alcoholic.

Thank you. Kimo N. CPC chair

Corrections Committee

If you are a slight bit curious of what Area 17 Service is about. I say you jump right in.

As for me I jumped in when I was 1yr and a half sober. As a Alt GSR, GSR, AltDCM , DCM, CSCC, all of which were 2 yr commitments. By being of service it kept me busy. I got to travel ,meet people from all over the States. And most important I was well informed of what AA was doing in the State of Hawaii and AA as a whole.

I'm ever so grateful for each and everyone of you who are in service. You all kept me sober for over 9 yrs. If it wasn't for Area Service I don't think I would have accomplished the yrs that I have.

Mahalo for allowing me to be of service.

Sincerely yours
Jubee B
CSCC

Mynah Bird Committee

Aloha, my name is Karen and I am an alcoholic. I have served Panel 71 as the Mynah Bird Chair. The content of the Mynah Bird is a reflection of the vibrant and diverse A.A. community in Hawaii Area 17. I have published issues for each of the Assemblies and Committee meetings for Panel 71 and a couple of special editions to publicize special events in the area and in Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. I hope that I have given a written picture of our area in the issues of the Mynah Bird.

Before each issue, I send out an email to Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM's, Mynah Bird Committee members, Intergroup Chairs and Past Delegates asking for articles. I often make suggestions for articles – steps, traditions, concepts, “heard at a meeting”. I have been suggesting to officers and committee chairs to answer the following questions: What is the best part of your position, what is the hardest part for your position and what would you like to pass on to the next person who will hold your position? I will answer those questions.

1. What is the best part of this commitment – there have been several high points. I have gotten to know people that I would not have normally met. I have gotten better at listening – when I hear someone share at a meeting, I often hear something special that could be expanded into an article. I have never been turned down. I have learned more about Word – more about that later in this article. I have had the opportunity to work with some wonderful people who love Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. What is the hardest part of this position? Working with Word – bad words have been said several times while putting Mynah Bird issues together!! I always ask about a month ahead for articles and send out a reminder the week before the deadline. Sometimes I haven't gotten enough to put together an issue, so I need to approach people personally and look for other sources for articles, for examples issues of local AA newsletters.
3. What would I like to pass on to the next person to hold this position? I have found the best way to get articles is to ask people personally. I have gotten some marvelous articles from people who have participated in special events or have had some unusual experiences in Alcoholics Anonymous. Mahalo to those who have shared their experience, strength and hope! I would also to tell the next person who will hold this position to “not stress out too much”. The issue will come together as it is meant to.

Mahalo for letting me be of service to Panel 71 as the Mynah Bird Chair.

Karen N. Panel 71 Mynah Bird Chair

Public Information

Aloha,

Serving as the PI Chairperson Area 17, Panel 17 the last 2 years has been challenging and rewarding at the same time. Service at any capacity has made my sobriety fulfilling and rewarding. Thanks Area 17 for the opportunity.

First and most challenging was COVID. When COVID impacted our ability to collaborate in person, our committee was limited to efforts that were based in technology or non-face-to-face activities. Our committee devised a plan using technology as our primary means to communicate with the public at large. We attended Technology in AA Online Community (TIAAC) forums where others throughout the AA community at the national level were talking about PI/CPC online work

Our committee implemented some of the ideas we got from the forum, and we launched our first online effort using a website separate from Area 17. We then created a PI Facebook page and started campaigning to the public using this page. We also did an online workshop and as COVID subsided, we conducted an in-person presentation at the Lions Club and provided literature for a homeless shelter.

The great thing we were able to accomplish out of this effort was demographics. We were able to determine the effectiveness of our efforts through Facebook's Ad Manager.

The last challenging thing we experience is keeping our committee together and active. Members seem to evolve and remain committed based on their personal responsibilities. Things change in everyone's life and our committee seem to disseminate over time. I tried to keep everyone updated and involved as much as possible.

As the chair I could have adopted more ways of encouraging participation by learning from other committee chairs. Overall, it was a great experience and I enjoyed being a part of the whole

Mahalo,

Bill M.

Hawaii Area 17 Panel 71 Summary

Standing Committee Chair Treatment and Accessibilities

Upon getting the phone call in December 2020 and being told that I have been appointed to Standing Committee Chair for treatment, I must admit there were nerves. On the one hand, I was very excited because I had been appointed to the position that I had first chosen. On the other hand, I was extremely nervous about the simple fact that I wasn't sure what I was going to be doing. I've learned along the way that fear is the opposite of faith. So, I needed to understand that faith was going to bring everything all together, the way that it was supposed to. Upon arrival at the orientation in January 2021, I must admit that meeting the newly appointed GSR's, trying to come together with a plan, and realizing that this was not in my hands at all, one word came to mind, Overwhelmed!

So, here's this alcoholic, already overwhelmed, and I haven't done anything to this point. As usual, everything I thought I knew, I didn't know. The traditions and concepts have told me very clearly, especially through the declaration of Unity, to place our common welfare first in order to keep our fellowship united. If I remember that simple statement. Everything was going to go the way that it was meant to go. The first thing I needed to do was get ahold of all the treatment facilities on all the islands. So, I was able to compile a list, send letters, and work with the GSR's that were on my committee in order to accomplish that goal. The next thing we set out to do was put together a series of workshops. My original goal was to accomplish 4 workshops throughout Panel 71. What I learned from this was that putting together 4 workshops was a lofty goal. We were able to get together and put on 3 workshops for panel 71. We started off with our original

workshop bridging the gap. We came together for a second workshop entitled Treatment and Traditions and we finished a third workshop entitled Treatment and Traditions Part 2. We were able to cover all the traditions in conjunction with the treatment committee that was utilized in order to put our best foot forward in support of working with the fellowship to keep them informed as well as keeping our doors open for the newcomer.

The workshops were well attended. We were able to keep our members informed, as well as our appointed committee members in action. The behind-the-scenes work that was accomplished within the treatment facilities and a lot of the clean and sober houses was wonderful. We were able to put literature racks and literature in 20 different facilities. We were also able to work directly with InterGroup on a constant basis, creating a set of pamphlets directly correlating to what treatment facilities needed. And keeping ourselves completely in the loop whenever the treatment facilities needed our assistance. Let's just say that our members associated to this committee were heavily involved. Without the help of these GSR's there was no way all of this was going to be accomplished.

I'd have to say that the highlight for this panel 71, as the Treatment Chair, was the proposal we submitted to have our title changed to Treatment and Accessibilities. It was a process that I had never endured, and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn how we function in an upside-down triangle. Submitting that proposal, with the backing of our GSR's appointed to our committee was fantastic. We submitted that proposal with nothing more than the thought that we might be able to do something to contribute to Area 17's ever-changing landscape. It was a yearlong process. And at the end, when we came together at the Budget Assembly, as I read the proposal, and watched as we took a vote to change the structures and guidelines, I knew we were apart of something truly amazing.

As I sit here writing this review, a few words come to mind. Humbled. Amazed. Inspired. Completely and utterly, Honored. To have been able to serve in a capacity that has been so fulfilling. As I said in the beginning when I first started, I was Overwhelmed. And that was my own thinking. But as I got out of the way of Self and let the WE in this program come together, I found that we truly have everything we could ever want to accomplish anything. Being a trusted servant is so much more at this level and understanding that everything we do is for the better and common good of all of AA. My sincerest hope is that everyone takes the opportunity to step in and be of service at all levels. And no matter what, never let fear drive you from being of service in any capacity.

Sean F. Treatment and Accessibilities Chair

Hawaii Area 17 Panel 71

Panel 71 Website Summary

I think it goes with without saying that this panel has been quite an experience, with the challenges and solutions presented by the onset of Covid 19 setting the tone for day. It was an experience not to be missed, seeing how we were suddenly rocketed into the virtual world and how the fellowship and the Area Committee rose to the occasion with the pandemic rapidly overtaking the normal circumstances of daily life while staying sober and connected and maintaining the service structure that helps the hand of AA to reach the still suffering alcoholic. I count myself fortunate to have been involved in this experience alongside you and have really felt the sense of the service family connection grow for me this panel. Those of us in General Service had little choice if we wanted to continue but to embrace the virtual meeting world and its conveniences and shortcomings as best we could. Not all have been willing to roll with

these changes, we have seen area attendance decline despite the ease of attending online meetings, and my homegroup was one that slowly dwindled away until there was not enough member left willing to keep its virtual doors open until we could get the physical ones unlocked once more.

It seems trying move into the next phase of this new world is even more challenging as we have faced the complexities and frustration of the hybrid meeting format finally get to relax in the joy of now meeting completely face to face for the first time although uncertainty lies ahead. We have already shown there is enough willingness to meet whatever challenge lies ahead and have some fun along the way, but I need to also acknowledge the unavoidable emotional, mental and spiritual fatigue and hangover resulting from the isolation and slow grind of the past two plus years. I cannot say enough of how being involved in service has helped lessen the impact and get me through the pandemic times.

I started a bit early as Webmaster while wrapping up last panel as the Corrections Chair, as help was needed to get the website back online after a suspension and restored to better functionality. I was grateful for and enjoyed the opportunity and had fun reworking the site and working with fellow area members to help develop the website to best suit or needs and it remains a continual work in progress as our needs continue grow and change. I also enjoyed learning all the aspects of managing the WordPress site, the domain & website hosting and Google Workspace Gmail and Google Drive and developing a system to quickly & efficiently perform ongoing tasks and request. This position offers a lot of quick gratification with the ongoing submittals for posting; a few clicks of the mouse and a quick reply with a smiley face leads to quick responses of gratitude from my fellows, greatly appreciated especially during the recent period of isolation. The Website Standing Committee description also says that technical training and services are provided as needed, however I somehow managed to avoid being involved in any of the virtual and hybrid meeting responsibilities. I look forward to helping the transition to the next willing trusted servant and will be available for as much assistance as needed during the process.

I do have a recommendation for the committee that I have not gotten around to submitting anything for. The Website Guidelines may not serve us well anymore as currently written and are likely due for a review and update. I did form a Website Committee as outlined, with an Alternate Webmaster and 3 other members and we met once to discuss the layout of the website, but we have not met since then. Due to the technical skills and the knowledge needed to maintain the website and domain hosting and email environment, I do think having an alternate trained and ready to step in if needed and available to help with some of the maintenance as needed is a good idea. As for the rest of the committee, perhaps a Technical Services Committee or the like to help anticipate and oversee our growing tech needs would serve us better to provide consistency and remove any burden of technical services management from the Officers already tasked with overseeing our meetings and any need for host districts to provide technical expertise.

I will finish by saying that General Service has been vital part of my growth in sobriety; I did not play well with others when I got here and desperately needed this environment beyond the ease of just going to meetings where I could bump up against other AA's, helping to knock the chips off each other's shoulders and learn about commitment, trusting the process and being part of a greater voice. I got involved hoping to become popular and important but stayed to continue to get over and beyond myself and reach that sacred common ground that we find together, often after sometimes excruciatingly slow deliberation, debate and disagreement. I hope you those of you newer to General Service find your own life inspiring and life changing experience here and stay to learn and grow and join us in this ever-changing service journey.

In Love & Service,

Sean C, Area 17 Website Standing Committee Chair

Thanksgiving Events in Area 17

THAANKON **NOVEMBER 24TH, 2022**



At 'The Stone Church' In Lihue

SCHEDULE

7:00-8:30	Open up; Set-up the Hall
9:00 - 10:00	ALANON Meeting
10:30 - 11:30	A.A. MEETING /by Kauai Recovery Group
12:00 – 1:30	<u>THANKSGIVING FEAST!</u>
2:00 – 3:00	A.A. MEETING
2:00 - 4:00	Clean-up / Breakdown, lock-up
TURKEY:	District 6 is Cooking & Delivering the Turkey.
SIDE DISHES:	To be supplied by the Island Groups:
~ WESTSIDE:	Salad, Dressing and Gravy
~SOUTHSIDE:	Dressing and Gravy, Cranberry Sauce
~EASTSIDE:	Sweet Potato, Mashed Potato, Vegetables
~NORTH SHORE:	Dessert, Cool-whip

HOSTED BY WAIKIKI DISTRICT 10



20 22
THANK-A-THON

Join us for the 2022 Thank-a-Thon

STARTS WED, NOV 23 AT 4 PM
AND ENDS THURS, NOV 24 AT 4 PM
LUNCH SERVED 11 AM - 1 PM

Unity Church of Hawaii
3608 Diamond Head Circle
Honolulu, HI 96815

Meetings start at the top of every hour.
Email **Solomon K.** at **skaloha808@gmail.com**
to sign up for a 50-min meeting. Groups must
provide a secretary and a speaker.

Email **Alika M.** at **alicastoy@gmail.com** or
Teresa D at **dcm10@area17aa.org** to get in service
or donate food! We need YOU!!

SPONSORED BY
Maui AA Intergroup

THANKS GIVING Alkathon

AA MEETINGS, DINNER, FELLOWSHIP

NOVEMBER 24TH

AA MEETINGS FROM 7:30A-4P
DINNER @ 1:30P

CAMERON CENTER

95 MAHALANI ST. WAILUKU, HI

SIDES, DESSERTS, WATER NEEDED!!

Event Hosted By:
To Thine Own Self Be True
& TTOSBT

see aa meeting times on back

Meeting Schedule: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m., noon, Thanksgiving Dinner at 1:30 p.m., last meeting at 3:00 p.m.