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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

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