

Aloha Hawaii Area 17,

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

When my name was pulled from the hat to serve as Alternate Chair I was excited but I must confess, frightened! Lucky for me, within a week, Deborah S, the Panel 69 Alternate Chair met with me virtually to clarify exactly what the duties and responsibilities would be 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 give freely of what they have learned in area service. I never serve alone.

After being invited to attend officer meetings before stepping into my new position I knew I needed to get a better understanding of the A.A. Service Manual and did so by attending a couple 12-week virtual study workshops on the service manual and the traditions presented by the past trustee Billy N. There is still so much to learn!

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

- Supported our Area Chair in working with and meeting with tech teams twice before each assembly and committee meeting.
- Participated in Plan-to-Plan Meetings with area Officers.
- Attended Finance Committee Meetings during lunch at assemblies and committee meetings.
- I 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 as well as attending the monthly Annual Hawaii Convention Committee meetings as a voting member.
- Supported the area Registrar by creating online registration for four assemblies and three committee meetings.
- Helped review the revised GSR Handbook.
- Facilitated roundtable discussions at assemblies.
- Attended PRAASA virtually in March.
- Attended Central Office and District meetings in West Hawaii.

I know I still have much to learn and that keeps me coming back. I am blessed to have a Chair who supports me and includes me. In 2022, I will have an opportunity to stretch my wings in the world of hybrid meetings. This will give me an opportunity to work more closely with the hosting districts. Currently I am working with Len, the DCM for Hilo/Hamakua District 7, who will be hosting what will hopefully be our very first hybrid committee meeting in February. This seems a bit intimidating at times but again, it's part of this never-ending opportunity to learn and grow.

Thank you again for blessing my life and giving me a great purpose. Thank you to those who have supported me in this amazing journey, what a gift to be a small part of the greater whole in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In love and service,
Jeannie G.
Alternate Chair
Hawaii Area 17/Panel 71
12/05/2021