

December 2012

Garden Island Sobriety

'Step Twelve

“Having had a spiritual awakening, as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”



He said: In preparing for this article I did a quick Internet search of “12 Step History” and found this:

From the Original Manuscript - Step 12. Having had a *spiritual experience* as the result of this course of action, we tried to carry this message to others, especially alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

By the second printing of the Big Book, the phrase “spiritual experience” had been replaced with “spiritual awaking”.

In **“Bill’s Story”**, Bill Wilson describes his spiritual awaking as “sudden and profound”. My own personal experience was not like that. My story more closely matches the description found in the second appendix of the Big Book entitled “Spiritual Experience”. But I did experience, what I now refer to as a ‘turning point’, which I described in last month’s Eleventh Step article.

The point is, whether the experience is sudden and profound, or more of the “educational variety”, if we have been diligent in our approach to the other 11 steps, it **does** come.

So, what do we do with our new spiritual outlook? I’ve often heard it said that “in order to keep it, you have to give it away”. And, in the Book of James (in the BIG Book) it says “Faith without works is dead”. Fortunately the chapter “Working with Others” clearly describes the process of working with another alcoholic one-on-one. But remember that Alcoholics Anonymous is a program of ‘attraction rather than promotion’. We can easily turn-off potential members by trying to force the AA message upon someone who isn’t ready to hear it. **Some of my** most profound spiritual experiences have started with the question “I hear you’ve quit drinking... How did you

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She said: Something fundamental inside of us changes when we do these 12 Steps. A deep desire to stop drinking brings us to the threshold of transformation and then the willingness to let go of our old ways of thinking opens the door to a new freedom and happiness.

Consciously or unconsciously I have always been looking for a way to be useful in this world. I have struggled toward happiness and a spiritual awakening countless times, yet my fundamental reactions to life stayed much the same. What was I missing?

To tell the truth, I could never figure that out. Not on my own. Still, I stubbornly held onto the idea that I, “I” could find the answer.

Inside of me there was a complex set of conclusions I had drawn about how to deal with the world. They were based mainly on fear and the debilitating constructs of my own imagination. Even so, my own mind was a mystery to me. I was powerless to change my thinking. Alcohol medicated my suffering for as long as it worked. Unfortunately it stopped working.

There were two things on the walls of my first AA meeting place that I read every day. One was on twin posters listing the 12 Steps of the program and the other was a small sign that said ‘Expect a Miracle’.

I didn’t see how these 12 Steps could possibly result in a spiritual awakening. It seemed too simple. But I was ready to try anything. I decided to expect that miracle.

What I found out was that I was going to have to have to toss out a lot of garbage, replace fear with faith and turn my attention toward helping others. None of this is easy to do but the 12 Steps have an inspired design toward this purpose. Guiding me to discover, disclose and discard my old ways of thinking is part of their purpose and ongoing result.

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AA Hotline 245-6677

He Said: (cont) do it?" But, carrying the message can take on many forms, and I have found that service to others keeps me aligned with, what I believe to be my Higher Power's will for my life. Lastly, we need to practice these principles in all our affairs.

When my life is running smoothly, it's easy for me to trust God, clean house, and serve others. However, I'm human, and at times my self-will tries to take charge. Of course, this is where the AA program matters most. The 12 Steps are specifically designed for me to get along with others and; in fact, consider their needs before my own.

The spiritual awakening has revealed a relationship and an understanding of my Higher Power that can and will do for me what I cannot do for myself. As long as I maintain contact with my Higher Power, I am granted a daily reprieve.

~ Yours respectfully, Jon S.

She Said: (cont) **In the synergy of all 12 Steps** I find 'the way out', the way to be in the world. Step 12 tells me to 'practice'. For me it is a continual process; Practice letting go of my fears, practice trusting God to change me in a way that makes me more useful to myself and to others. It is a continual refinement.

Willingness is the gift that alcoholism gave me. Only by suffering its ravages did I become entirely willing to let go. For an alcoholic the energy of life becomes an alarming downward spiral. It is fueled by a deathly obsession with alcohol that no one but a fellow alcoholic can understand. In helping each other we help ourselves. In a surprising way this affliction can become our salvation by the grace of a God who turns all things to good, for those who turn to God.

~ Gratefully, Linda B.

Birthday Celebrations

South Shore

- **Koloa Monday Women's 'Na wahine ku pono'** 5:00 p.m., Koloa Library, Last Monday of the month. CAKE & POTLUCK.
- **Aloha Group** - 7:30 p.m. Speaker Meeting, Koloa Union Church, last Tuesday of the month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

East Side

- **Hui Ohana** - 7:00-8:00 am Last Saturday of the month. CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!
- **Steps to Freedom** - 6:30 pm Last Monday of the month. CAKE & POTLUCK (7:30 pm meeting).

North Shore

- **North Shore Aloha Group** - 7:30 pm Last Monday of the month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!
- **Princeville-Hanalei Group** - 7:30 pm Last Thursday of the Month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

Happy Birthday

Mike C.	11/6	1975	37 yrs
Carol O.	11/19	1981	31 yrs
Anderson	11/21	1987	25 yrs
Mathea A.	11/17	1988	24 yrs
Niamala	11/24	1995	17 yrs
Tom F.	11/15	1996	16 yrs
Lani A.	11/21	2005	7 yrs
Barry	11/8	2006	6 yrs
Bob	11/13	2006	12 yrs
Chris S.	11/3	2007	5 yrs
Jeanie	11/26	2007	5 yrs
Scott C.	11/3	2007	5 yrs
Mark G.	11/4	2007	5 yrs
Michelle L.	11/13	2008	4 yrs
Sonia	11/5	2011	1 Year

Congratulations Everyone!!

~About Publishing Birthdays~

**We Publish All Sobriety Birthdays
On The Month After Their Occurrence.**

If you would like to have a birthday published or corrected in the Garden Island Sobriety newsletter Please contact us: District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Expect A Miracle

Christmas

This Year in Kapaa
At The Neighborhood Center

MORE WILL BE REVEALED WITH
FLYERS DURING DECEMBER!!



The Water Meeting & BBQ

December 9th at Lydgate Park. Potluck/BBQ at
11:00am and meeting in the water at 1:00pm



Volleyball Game Day

This Month on December 29th, 3:00 pm
~ Come Join Us At Nawiliwili Beach Park ~



Last Saturday Supper

This Month on December 29th, 7:00 pm
~ Potluck at the Koloa Salvation Army Hall ~

A.A. Meeting Places



The Hanalei Teen Center

Across the Hwy from St. Williams Church
(St. Williams is at 5292 Kuhio Hwy)

- Turn left right before the soccer field.
- Wednesday 6:30pm, Bad Brains Mtg.
- Friday 7:30 pm, Step Study Meeting



From Our Readers:

~Thanksgiving on Kauai~

Kauai, November 2012

It was very pleasant to see fellow members from all sides of the island in one single room participating in Recovery, Unity, and Service.

Seventeen years ago, in the month of October, I walked into my first AA meeting. Ironically that meeting was in the same room where the "Beginners" meeting now meets on Sundays, at 6:00pm, next to the hall where we have the Thank-A-thon every year.

I remember that at the end of that first meeting a member made the announcement about the Thank-A-thon. I did *not* attend it and I did *not* stay sober at that time either. It took nine more years for me to admit defeat and finally attend my first Thank-A-thon.

It's amazing now to be a part of this AA body. And just like a body part is indispensable to the functioning of the human body, your service and attendance was indispensable to the accomplishment of the Thank-A-thon. Without saying any names I want to express my gratitude to all the members that participated in any form of service and made this 2012 Thank-A-thon possible.

God willing we'll do it again.

"Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. May God bless you and keep you—until then".

~ Alejandro H.



AA Archives

Some Significant Dates In Our Timeline:

October 1883: A book is published – “The Greatest Thing in the World”, by Henry Drummond. It is one of eleven books (including the Bible) that influenced how the Big Book was written.

Drummond describes “Love” as being the greatest power in the world and goes on to describe the spectrum of love as having 9 elements; **Patience – Kindness – Generosity – Humility – Courtesy – Guiltlessness - Unselfishness – Good Temper & Sincerity.** To these 9 aspects **the early alcoholics added Gratitude and Tolerance.**

October 1939: The first national magazine to do an article on AA was ‘Liberty magazine’, with a two page article titled “Alcoholics and God.” This article brought in over 1000 inquiries and sold 100 copies of our newly published book.

~Submitted by Mathea A., from an Archives Report, Interior Alaska



Concepts for World Service

CONCEPT XII: General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

... The Warranties of Article 12 are as follows:

Warranty One: “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.”

Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.”

Warranty Three: “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.”

Warranty Four: “That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity.”

Warranty Five: “That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.”

Warranty Six: “Though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in action and in spirit.” ...

The sum of these several attitudes and practices is, in our view, the very essence of democracy—in action and spirit. Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of the Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty. To a man, we of A.A. believe that our freedom to serve is truly the freedom by which we live—the freedom in which we have our being.

~ By Bill W.

This article may be found in its entirety in The World Services Manual pp. 60-73, (Published by General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous).



Concept XII Checklist

- ✓ How do we guard against becoming a “seat of perilous wealth or power?”
- ✓ How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- ✓ Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all A.A. members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- ✓ Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- ✓ As guardians of A.A.’s traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- ✓ Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- ✓ Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

Kauai Intergroup

Next Intergroup Meeting December 1st
9:30 am, Lihue Neighborhood Center

Need Literature?

➔ **Get It At The Intergroup Meeting!**

*Books*Pamphlets*GIS Newsletter*Meeting Schedules

➔ **Or We Can Deliver It To You!**

Call the AA Hotline With Your Request at: **245-6677**

AA Hotline 245-6677

Requirements to be a Hotline Volunteer:

- One year of continuous sobriety
- A home or cell phone



Visit Our Website for meeting schedules and the events calendar. We also have links to other island websites. If you need to contact the website committee email : website.intergroup@gmail.com

Request a newsletter
by e-mail

Contact: District6newsletter@hotmail.com



Intergroup Treasurers Report

November 2012

Income:

Princeville/Hanalei	\$360.00
Happy Hour	\$ 28.70
Koloa Aloha	\$ 48.75
Step Sisters	\$ 59.40
Books	\$200.00
Labor Day	\$ 23.00
Wed Koloa Stick Meeting	\$ 48.00
Friday Koloa Big Book	\$ 42.50
Koloa 12x12	\$ 79.00
Koloa Books	\$ 48.00

Expenses:

Mark M. Books	\$375.50
Mark M. Books	\$208.70
Tom R Schedules	\$235.44
Hawaiian Telcom	\$ 97.57
Guardian Self Storage rent	\$104.17
InkSpot	\$150.00

Balance	\$1686.76
Prudent Reserve:	\$-200.00
Available Funds:	\$ 986.76

~ Prepared by Mike C.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i Intergroup
P.O. Box 3606
Lihue, HI 96766



Intergroup Officers:

Chairperson:	Bob B. chair.intergroup@gmail.com
Alt. Chair:	OPEN
Treasurer:	Mike C.
Alt. Treasurer:	Mo L.
Secretary:	OPEN
Literature:	Mark M.
Hotline:	Mark & Danette hotline.kauai@gmail.com
GIS Editor:	Linda B. District6newsletter@hotmail.com

District 6, Kauai:

District 6 Treasurer's Report

Next District Meeting December 15th
9:30 am, Lihue Neighborhood Center

November 24, 2012

District 6 Committee:

DCM: Mo L.
Alt. DCM: JD district6altdcm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Alejandro H.
Secretary: OPEN
Public Info.: OPEN

Group Contributions:

The Fourth Dimension	30.00
Step Sisters Kauai	15.00
Saturday 3 rd Tradition	50.00
Princeville Hanalei	315.00
North Shore Aloha Gr.	80.00
Total Contributions	490.00
Void Check#1010 Halloween	10.00
Income Y/D:	\$3362.49


Incoming - Panel 63

DCM: Ron A.
Alt. DCM: Alejandro H.
Secretary: George K.
Treasurer: Jay Y.

Expenses:


Toner /Treasurer	55.19
DCM Election Assem. Regist.	25.00
HAC ½ Delegate Report Back	128.00
Total Expenses	208.19
Expenses Y/D:	\$4189.28
Cash Available	\$2159.01
+ Prudent Reserve	\$ 500.00

Service is Sobriety


Our Area 17  Delegate is
Linda McD.
delegate@area17aa.org

~ Prepared by Alejandro H.

Area Address Has Changed

 Mail will be forwarded for a year (from last June) and returned to sender after that.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i District Committee 
P.O. Box 1503
Kapa'a, HI 96746


Send Area Contributions

ADDRESS IT EXACTLY LIKE THIS:

Hawaii Area Committee
1253 Beretania St., #1207 
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822

Please include "District 6" & Group Name on check

Find A.A. in Hawaii



at: www.area17aa.org