

March 2012

Garden Island Sobriety

'Step Three'

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."



He said: I, for one, am grateful that the Steps are written in the order they are; if I had been asked to turn my will over to God when I first walked through the doors of A.A. I would have balked at the suggestion and made a b-line for the exit. I'd still be out there doing the same insane behavior or, (more likely) I'd be dead.

I've always found it interesting that A.A.'s Third Step doesn't ask us to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, The Third Step asks us to make a decision to do it.

I was recently reminded of an old joke; "There are three frogs sitting on a log, and one decides to jump off. How many frogs are still sitting on the log? ... Answer: Three." But don't think that this decision is meaningless or insignificant. This is a crucial step and will become the foundation by which we will rebuild our lives.

But who's God?

In Step Two we chose a God of our understanding. To work Step Three you want this God to be one you can trust. There's little sanity in turning your life and your will over to a God who wants to punish or harm you, or lets you endlessly languish in a painful state. It doesn't matter if the God of your understanding comes from your church, or nature, or A.A. And it doesn't matter if the God of your understanding is called God, or Buddha, or Great Spirit. (I have one A.A. friend that refers to his Higher Power as 'The Force' from Star Wars). But, just knowing there is a representation of strength, love and compassion that can do a better job (than we ever did) of directing our lives, is enough to take Step Three.

And what are we turning over?

The Big Book reminds us that we alcoholics are "an extreme example of self will run riot", and that we
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She said: I'm going to share with you my favorite definition of a Higher Power. It came from a man who visited my home group twice when I was there. He shared that one morning he was really struggling with his difficulty believing in a Higher Power. Then, he said, It came to him.

His Higher Power was "a force in the Universe that wants us moving in a positive direction." He said that he got a lot of peace from that concept and his struggle on that point seemed to be over.

He also said he made some other decisions about his life direction on that same day and was comfortable that it would all work out OK, because he now believed that he was being assisted by his Higher Power.

I remember being very impressed with this definition. I carry it in my heart and still use it today. Even as I write this, I am again tapping into the reassurance for my own life as it stands today that all will be well, despite what I think is evidence to the contrary.

I share this Higher Power definition with others from time to time, always thanking the person who first said it (his anonymity is safe because I can't even remember his name).

I find it the cleanest, shortest definition of Higher Power that I have encountered. It seems to me totally unencumbered by the overtones of any religion, or none, and could be used by a person of any belief system.

I've added one word to his original definition of a Higher Power for my own use. I add the word **loving**, as in: "A loving force in the Universe that wants us moving in a positive direction." It means a great deal to me that my God, or Higher Power, loves me. And I believe this Power loves us all.

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AA Hotline 245-6677

He Said: (cont) "must be rid of the selfishness". By taking the Third Step, we become willing to let our Higher Power show us a better way to live.

So, how did we get to the Third Step anyway? In the First Step, we are convinced that we are powerless over alcohol, and life is unmanageable. Paraphrased; "I can't keep doing what I've been doing, the way I've been doing it". And in Step Two, we slowly 'woke up' to the realization that there was a Higher Power that would restore us.

My sponsors put it like this; "I can't (Step 1). God can (Step 2). I think I'll let Him (Step 3)."

~ Yours respectfully, Jon S.

She Said: (cont) This Step, which has stood the test of time and hard, real-life use by millions of recovering alcoholics, doesn't say turn our will and lives over to the manipulation of God, or the dictates of God, or the iron fist of God, or the rules and regulations of God.

It says care, and caring is what we do for children or animals in our custody. For plants we hope will grow. For relationships we hope will flourish. We care.

If we flawed human alcoholics can care, I believe this loving force in the Universe does, too. Even if I'm wrong and there is no such thing as God, I find my life is better if I live as if there is. It's one of those things I need to quit arguing – and accept. It works for me, when I let go of my expectations.

A hui hou, ~ Diana L.

Happy Birthday

Lucky	2/10	1981	31 yrs
Billy A.	2/14	1982	30 yrs
Denise	2/18	1984	28 yrs
Fran M.	2/14	1986	26 yrs
Annie B.	2/15	1998	14 yrs
Jeff S.	2/14	2002	10 yrs
Bill S.	2/2	2004	7 yrs
Janice M.	2/5	2005	6 yrs
Susan C.	2/24	2007	5 yrs
Arthur D.	2/1	2008	4 yrs
Pat C.	2/16	2008	4 yrs
Mark A.	2/29	2008	4 yrs
David A.	2/23	2009	3 yrs
Matt L.	2/24	2009	3 yrs
Alysson	2/26	2011	1 yr!

Congratulations To All!

~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

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!

Request a newsletter



by e-mail



Contact us at:

District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Inform The Delegate Assembly



April 14th and 15th, 2012

Hosted by

Diamond Head District 1



Panel 61's 'Inform The Delegate Assembly' will be held at The Church of the Holy Nativity, 5286 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. For more information go to: www.area17aa.org



Big Island Bash

'Had A Spiritual Awakening'

April 20th - 22nd, 2012

The 24th Annual Big Island Bash (an AA and Al-Anon Activity) will be held at the magnificent **Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort and Spa**.

For more information go to: www.bigislandbash.com

H.I.C.Y.P.A.A. 2012

(Hawaiian Islands Conference of Young People in AA)

- A VISION FOR YOU -

September 28th-30th, Camp Naue, Kauai

**A Young Person Is Defined As
"Anyone Who Is Willing To Grow"**

This fall HCYPAA is having a campout at Camp Naue on Kauai. For Food, Fun, Fellowship, Camping, Hiking, Swimming, Speakers, Meetings, Music, Relaxation and Most of All Recovery, Please Join Us!

The Registration Form is at: <http://www.kauaiaa.org>
\$15 entrance fee per day if not registered for event.
\$55 to register now, \$65 after August 28th.
50 bunks are available (off-islanders have first dibs) and the Tent rentals are- \$15 each.

Questions ? Email us at: hicypaa2012@kauaiaa.org
Call AA Hotline:808 245-6677 or go to: www.kauaiaa.org



Volleyball Game Day

The First Saturday of Every Month

3:00 pm at Nawiliwili Beach Park.

Please come and join us for a fantastic time!

~Sponsored by Happy Hour Kauai~

A.A. Meeting Places



Lydgate Park Pond:

● **"The Young Peoples Water Meeting"**

Held Every 2nd Sunday at 1:00 am at Lydgate Park Pond. Bring a flotation device. Look for our circle!

A BBQ /Potluck starts at 11:00 am.

● **"The 12 Concepts, A Book Study"**

Also Held Every Second Sunday at 11:30 am (before the water meeting). Everybody is invited. Bring your "AA Service Manual." This study is sponsored by District 6.



A.A. Meetings

Announcing a new meeting!

Tuesdays at 3pm at the Smokey Valley Clubhouse .

The clubhouse is at 4700 Ala Wai Road in Waimea. This is a Step Study meeting and we expect that there will be many newcomers attending. Join us!



Concept III for World Service

From: Twelve Concepts for World Service By Bill W.
As adopted by the 12th Annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous on April 26, 1962

Concept III: As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Within the framework of their general responsibilities, whether these be defined by charter, by resolution, or by custom, it should be the traditional right of all world service boards, committees, and executives to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. **We ought to trust our world servants with these discretions, because otherwise no effective leadership can be possible.** Let us consider in detail, therefore, why **the need for a "right of decision" in our leadership is imperative**, and let us examine how this principle can be applied practically in all levels of our structure of world service.

We have seen how the A.A. groups, under the concept of the **"group conscience,"** are today holding the ultimate authority and the final responsibility for world services. We have also noted how, by reason of the Conference Charter and the **"trusted servant"** provision of Tradition Two, the groups have delegated to their General Service Conference full authority to manage and conduct A.A.'s world affairs.

The Conference and General Service Board Charters in broad terms define the responsibility of the Conference to act on behalf of A.A. as a whole. ...These

instruments, in a general way, describe the relation between the groups, the Conference, the Trustee, and the active service units. These broad definitions and descriptions are an indispensable frame of reference, and we could not function without them.

...knowing that theirs is the final authority, the groups are sometimes tempted to instruct their Delegates exactly how to vote upon certain matters in the Conference...

But good management seldom means the full exercise of a stated set of ultimate rights. For example, were the groups to carry their instruction of Delegates to extremes, then we would be proceeding on the false theory that group opinion in most world service matters would somehow be much superior to Conference opinion. Practically speaking, this could almost never be the case. **There would be very few questions indeed that "instructed" Delegates could better settle than Conference acting on the spot with full facts and debate to guide it.** Of course it is understood that complete *reporting* of Conference actions is always desirable. **...the "instructed" Delegate who cannot act on his own conscience in a final Conference vote is not a "trusted servant" at all; he is just a messenger.**

...the Conference Charter...is a broad document which can be variously construed. Under one interpretation, the groups can instruct the Delegates all they like. Under another, the Delegates and Trustees actually can ignore such instructions, whenever they believe that to be desirable.

...some traditional and practical principle has to be devised which at all levels *will continuously balance the right relation between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility.* ...The right A.A. solution for this problem is to be found, however, in the latter part of **Tradition Two, which provides for "trusted servants."** **This really means that we ought to trust our responsible leaders to decide, within the understood framework for their duties, how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises.** This sort of leadership discretion should be the essence of ***"The Right of Decision,"*** and I am certain that we need not have the slightest fear of granting this indispensable privilege at nearly every level of world service.

There will always be plenty of ultimate authority to correct inefficiency, ineffectiveness, or abuse. If the

Conference does not function well, the groups can send in better Delegates. If the Trustees get badly out of line, the Conference can censure them, or even reorganize them. If the Headquarters' services go sour, the Trustees can elect better directors and hire better help. These remedies are ample and direct. But for so long as our world services function reasonably well – and there should always be charity for occasional mistakes – then **“trust” must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless.**

This “Right of Decision” should never be made an excuse for failure to render proper reports of all significant actions taken; it ought never be used as a reason for constantly exceeding a clearly defined authority, nor as an excuse for persistently failing to consult those who are entitled to be consulted before an important decision or action is taken.

Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other. Therefore we cannot do less than trust our leader in service. The “Right of Decision” that we offer them is not only the practical means by which they may act and lead effectively, but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence.

(Published by General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous®)

The Concepts Checklist

Concept III: (Short Form)

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees & executives with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

- ✓ • **Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?**
- ✓ • **Do we trust our trusted servants — G.S.R., D.C.M., Area Delegate, the Conference itself?**

Kauai Intergroup

**The Next Intergroup Meeting Is
March 3rd, 9:30 am at the
Lihue Neighborhood Center**



Kauaiaa.org
Visit Our New Website for meeting schedules and a 2012 events calendar. The website committee contact email is : website.intergroup@gmail.com

Intergroup Treasurer’s Report

January, 2012

Income:

Christmas 7 th tradition/book sales	118.78
Exp., Strength & Hope	71.00
Sunday Serenity	86.35
North Shore Aloha	360.00

Expenses:

InkSpot – GIS January 2012	150.00
InkSpot - GIS February 2012	150.00
Tom R. Schedules	234.41
Aloha Bus. Center Schedules	244.79
Hawaiian Telcom	96.47
Guardian Self Storage rent	100.00

Balance **\$1,513.86**

Prudent Reserve: **\$-200.00**

Available Funds: **\$1,313.86**


~ Prepared by Mike C

For Anonymous Contributions

Please send a note with your check to Intergroup *if you want your contribution to remain anonymous*

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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





Do You Need A.A. 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**

Intergroup Officers:

Chairperson: Bob B.
 Alt. Chair: Kathryn B.
 Treasurer: Mike C.
 Secretary: Susan Ok. secretary.intergroup@gmail.com
 Recording Sec: **OPEN**
 Literature: Danette M.
 Alt. Lit.: Mark M.
 Hotline: Damione hotline.kauai@gmail.com
 Events: **OPEN**
 GIS Editor: Linda B. District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Service is Sobriety

Our Area 17  Delegate is
 Linda McD.

delegate@area17aa.org

Send Area Contributions

ADDRESS IT EXACTLY LIKE THIS:

Hawaii Area Committee
 #2107
 575 Cooke St., Suite A
 Honolulu, HI 96813



Please include "District 6" & Group Name on check

District 6, Kauai:

The Next District Meeting Is
 March 10th, 9:30 am,
 At 3146 Akahi St., Lihu`e

District 6 Committee:

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

District 6 Treasurer's Report

February 2012

Balance last statement 01/20/12	2155.32
Group Contributions:	
Koloa Woman's	25.00
Happy Hour	30.00
Exp. Strength & Hope	71.00
North Shore Aloha	120.00
Sunday Serenity	86.35
Total Group Contributions	332.35
Expenses	
DCM To Praasa	966.70
Us Postal Service (PO Box)	76.00
Mathea A. CPC	189.50
Total Expenses	1232.20
Cash available	2222.17

~ Prepared by Alejandro H. ~

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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



Please include "District 6" & Group Name on ck