

July 29, 2017

Hosted by District 5 No Ka Oi

Participation by District 11 Kihei, District 13 Tri-Island and Maui Intergroup

Safety in AA Workshop

First Topic: How do we handle disruptive behavior in a meeting?

Group 1

- 1) Anonymity doesn't protect members in the moment of assault. We are all responsible. Women approach women, etc. Show love. Try growing first.
- 2) Be weary of "Mr. Right" if you have kids. You can go on Hawaii Registered Sex offenders and see pictures. Not everyone is registered though.
- 3) If a person is continuously threatened by someone, that individual can get a restraining order, but the group can't.

Group 2

- Take person aside from Meeting and talk to that person alone.
- Assign someone in Home Group to be point person
- Calmness
- Discuss at Home Group/Business Meeting; Get a group conscious.
- Safety Statement in Format.
- Want to make sure we don't go too far with guidelines.

Group 3

- Just out of prison - scary shares - especially for newcomers. Want physical contract because they've been alone - scares folks
- how do we handle this should they go to NA?
- if out of hand or drunk - other members take disruptive person outside
- guy saying "AA doesn't work" old timers need to step in. Old timers have guidance and show others.
- Does secretary handle all situations???
- Disruptive men respond better to calm mature women.
- New secretaries don't want or can't handle the disruptive situation.
- What is disruptive???
- What about the person who sees aliens the 4 minutes is their time to speak of whatever they like. Then Old timers can talk to them after the meeting
- Give leeway to disruptive behavior, because we all come in crazy. Violence is another issue.
- Use soft voice to disruptive person works better than to engage in confrontation.
- Solid home groups have a plan before hand to handle difficult situations. Discuss with all the secretaries. Men work with men. Women with women. Physical violence call 911 immediately.
- Sexual abuse boundaries - lack of as newcomers. Inforce women with women and men with men.
- Seen all kinds of behavior. Encourages newcomers to be secretaries. Happy hour's rule is you no like it leave, we cease fighting everyone and everything.

Second Topic: How do we handle predatory behavior in the AA community?

Group 1

1) Exploiting for money/labor: Teach AA appropriate behavior!
2) Sexual: Men stick with men, etc. It's not your job to be a "grandfather". Young women are attracted to older men too. It is the women's responsibility to protect the newcomer women. Long term sobriety doesn't make someone a non-predator. Its ok to tell sponsees who isn't a safe person. In support of the fellowship, communication is vital. Tell women newcomers "do not give your number to men".

*It happens to men as well. Touching is an important boundary that needs to be respected. It can be put on a business meeting agenda.

Group 2

- 1) Rely on church to have a TRO with abusive people who always come disruptive.
- 2) Be personally responsible to lead by example in and around meetings.
- 3) Tough to know what happens after the meetings. (Stalking, etc.)
- 4) We can emphasize getting temporary sponsors to teach AA acceptable behavior.
- 5) Speak to Old timers in the meeting to get support from them by explaining what is going on.
- 6) Women circle up with women to protect new women - don't punish the men but model and teach what is appropriate.
- 7) Keep AA safe for new people - take responsibility to teach safe behavior to each other.
- 8) Laminate the Yellow pages (GSOs Safety Card for AA Groups) and put on table at meetings.
- 9) Religious Harassment

Group 3

Predatory/abusive behavior

- 1) Woman no man wanted to help - bad experience man helped her.
- 2) Pervy old man helped very young confused woman. We can't judge members because we know their history. Here to NOT drink. Violence call cops. Yucky walk away.
- 3) Sponsor suggests young women wait a year before dating or involvement. How to protect without controlling? Easy to make man or woman a Higher Power in the beginning. Make your opposite sex choices dependent on NOT DRINKING. Focus on self.
- 4) About Safety:
- 5) Common Sense - See something, say something. Each person is responsible for self. "Men or Women told not to hit on newcomer" Swarm same sex person in beginning.

Financial predatory behavior

- 1) Let newcomers know they can say "NO" to all requests.
- 2) Woman ask men to stop calling/texting, etc. They need to stop and vice versa.

Strong Sponsorship

Add to Format: Statement on Safety: "If you are not feeling safe in meeting, let someone know"

1st brothers and sisters

2nd great opportunity to build friendship

3rd great opportunity for healing

