

February 2021



MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER



Area Website: www.area17aa.org

Articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

Upcoming	Send Seventh Tradition Contributions
PRAASA 2021 (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) March 5th – 7th Hosted by Area 93	Hawaii Area Committee P.O. Box 1413 Honolulu, HI 96806
Inform the Delegate Assembly Virtual (co-hosted by District 10 Waikiki) March 27 & 28	General Service Board P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

Who should attend:

PRAASA – anyone in Alcoholics Anonymous who wants to learn more about service!! See more information later in this newsletter

Inform the Delegate Assembly – Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, District Committee Members, General Service Representatives, Intergroup Chairs and anyone who is interested. All are welcome.

I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that. I am responsible.



_____ I am looking for an Alternate Webmaster who would serve on the Area Website Committee and be able to administer website and related functions in my absence.

They can be a member of the area body and would be approved by the Area Chair & Committee.

I am also looking for a least two A.A. members who would like to serve on the Website Committee.

2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Hawaii Area Website Committee will consist of at least four (4) members. The position of chair will be held by the Webmaster to be appointed in a manner consistent with other Standing Committee Chairs, with the option to renew the appointment. The Alternate Webmaster position may be a volunteer from the body of the Area Fellowship and will be approved by the Chair and Area Committee. The rest of the committee will be filled by interested members of the Fellowship.

3. COMMITTEE ROLES

3.1 Webmaster

A. Serves as the chair of the committee as well as primary Webmaster and site administrator.

B. Provides training and technical services the Area as necessary, including making sure that the Alternate Webmaster can function in the Webmaster's absence.

C. Maintains host agreements and domain registration to ensure that neither lapse resulting in loss of service or control of domain.

3.2 Alternate Webmaster: serves as vice-chair and Webmaster/administrator in the absence of the Webmaster or in duties assigned by the Webmaster.

3.3 Committee Members (2 or more in addition to the above): serves to help formulate guidelines for proper use of the Website consistent with A.A. Guidelines, Traditions, and Concepts and provide a vision for the future.

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Mahalo,
Sean C, Hawaii Area 17 Website Committee Chair
928-451-0302

A great way to support the Grapevine and help another alcoholic.



WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

2021
CARRY THE MESSAGE
PROJECT

GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for:
• Sponsees • Newcomers • Prisons • Detoxes • Doctor's Offices
• Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in.
Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new Carry the Message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

PRAASA will be virtual this year - registration is now open - only \$15. No hotel or airfare to worry about. Try it out and you will want to experience more when we can meet together again.

PRAASA 2021

Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

Save the dates

MARCH 5 - 7, 2021

For the First Ever Virtual PRAASA

With Al-Anon Participation



Hosted by Central California Area 93 www.area93.org

Registration IS now open online!

www.PRAASA.org

Mail registration to 4212 E. Los Angeles Ave. #3638, Simi Valley, CA 93063-3308

Suggested Contribution of \$15

Email info@praasa.org for more information.

For Al-Anon information: <mailto:alanon.praasa@gmail.com>

Spanish & ASL translation available if requested



Words from our members

For the Mynah Bird 2021 -- Step 2

I walked into my first meeting desperate to quit picking up the first drink. I could not trust myself to stay sober. I had lost the trust of everyone who loved me. Self-knowledge and self-reliance failed me when it came to staying away from the first drink. I had sincere resolve each time I swore I was finished with booze for good. Sometimes I made it for days or weeks without a drink, but the thought of how to get away with taking a drink haunted me. But there was that first word of our first step, "We", and I knew I belonged in AA. I soon took Step One with my sponsor.

Step Two baffled me. Oh sure, I acted insanely when I drank: my black-out behavior was erratic, mean, immoral, and buffoonish. But how could I trust a power I did not understand to restore me? My sponsor told me how she recovered after hitting bottom on Oahu, how lack of power had been her problem and how if I could stop listing all the things I could not believe, and form my own conception of a loving HP, maybe I would find myself restored in body mind and spirit.

I came to believe in Divine Love, I came to experience the grace, mercy, and growth in all of our steps. I loved the Serenity Prayer, went to book study meetings, met with sponsors over the years, and I trusted my home group. I had a career in music and entertainment and found out the meaning of AA unity when I found meetings all over our AA Area before and after shows. I sang each song with all my heart, since music was a form of divine love and I was a lucky participant! I kept my day jobs, raised my son, and had a beautiful life, trusting in the fellowship, the program of AA and my Loving HP!

Last summer we got to sell our house to family members and move to a new home here in District 8. I trusted that accepting a service position in my new group would give me joy and that sense of belonging that I love! When I attended my first District Business meeting, I experienced how Concept II was alive and well, the spirit of delegation and the symphony of the group consciences keeping perfect harmony in our melody of unity, service, and recovery. I know Divine Love wants me to be happy, joyous, and free, and so long as I stay in the middle of AA and away from the first drink, I will sing a song of Aloha each day with all my heart.

Beth S.

KKAA

8/1/79

Tradition 2 -- For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

As the steps help assure the individuals in Alcoholics Anonymous, our traditions help assure the survival of our groups.

Tradition two assures us that all voices count and that the group isn't controlled by one or a few, that dictate how the group runs. Although we have leaders, which help do various tasks and help facilitate the business of the group, they are there to serve the group and its members.

When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, I was full of opinions on how the world should be run and I was glad to share them with you! An old coworker, who knew me well, once told me, before a company business meeting, to go into that meeting with the thought, "They might be right". Although I usually remembered that before going into meetings, I usually concluded that they were not right and if they only listened to me, things would run much better!

Tradition Two has taught me to be a humble servant, not a dictator. I also found out that this tradition helps insure rotation of leadership. That has taught me humility and consideration. That the group can do just fine with or without me. This ensures the future survival of the group.

My first service position in A.A, was cleaning the ash trays! The elders told me that they were looking for a good ash tray cleaner as it was hard to get someone to do a good job cleaning them. I took it, hook, line, and sinker. I tried to be the best damn ashtray cleaner that group had ever seen! After six months was up, they told me that I had done such a great job, that I should volunteer to be the coffee maker. They told me this position was the most important one in A.A.! For six months, I did my best to be the best damn coffee maker they ever had. Well, my ego was fed but it kept me coming back every week.

When six months was up, the group said that I had to allow someone else to do the coffee. I was a little put out and thought they would let me continue, since I did such a great job! Ha! The first week or two of train-ing, hovering over, the new guy, my sponsor said enough was enough and to not get out of my seat during the meeting and let him be. I gained a resentment and a little humility from that. I learned about the spirit of rotation.

Tradition Two also has shown me that ALL voices count in A.A. In my various home groups, I watched as the group conscience guided the way. In the group's business meetings, I saw how minority opinions changed the outcome of a proposition. Someone would point out something that nobody considered. This was the phrase "They might be right", in action.

I have gained some humility thru service to the groups and in Alcoholics Anonymous and am always remind-ed of what a 'trusted servant' means. For that, I am grateful.

D.S.

Maui Serenity Gazette

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot
change, courage to change the things I can and the
wisdom to know the difference.*

Getting involved is the key

I came to Maui for the first time to celebrate my 50th birthday. I immediately felt a tug on my soul and I knew that I would live here one day. I continued coming to Maui every year and strengthened my bond with this island. I began to make friends here and started telling friends and family at home that I would be moving to Maui when I retired. My dream was in motion, but I was drinking like a fish.

I returned to Maui to for my 57th birthday. Instead of celebrating my birthday, I began the final descent to the bottom of my drinking and the beginning of my sober journey in Alcoholics Anonymous. A felony DUI on the West side brought me to my knees. Fear kept me from drinking until I made it into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous a few weeks later in CA. While I did not want to belong in these rooms, I heard you share my feelings, my failed relationships, my inability to face life. As I was introduced to my sponsor and the 12 steps of AA, willingness replaced my fear. I gradually built a relationship with my Higher Power and had a series of spiritual experiences which led to a spiritual awakening sufficient to remove my desire to drink. My sobriety date is 3/14/12.

I was taught early in sobriety to be of service, stay in the middle of the herd, go to meetings, get to know women and let them know me and stay current with my sponsor. I started making coffee, secretarying meetings, going to AA events and speaker meetings, calling women, going to seven or more meetings a week and meeting regularly with my sponsor. For the first time, I felt a sense of purpose and belonging.

The next time that I traveled to Maui, I was armed with a printed Maui meeting schedule and my Big Book. I knew that I could not go two weeks without a meeting even though I continued to stay in contact by phone. I found meetings in the park near the ocean where you circled up in beach chairs and shared openly. I went to the Alano Club in Lahaina to a "Joe and Charlie" meeting. I found a 7am meeting in a little green church across from the ocean where I would cross the street after the meeting, sit on the rocks and meditate. While I did not know people by name, I felt the same familiarity and connection that I felt in my meetings in CA.

For the next several years, I would come and stay for 3 week stretches. I knew that, if I was going to move to Maui, I needed to begin to build my community here. I was waking up at 5am due to the time difference, so I started regularly attending the 7am Kihei Morning Serenity meetings. I went back to basics as I was taught.... introduce myself, stay after the meeting and help with chairs and sweeping. I started to recognize faces and people would greet me by name. Each year, when I would return, I would introduce myself and say that KMS was my "home away from home group" and hear the chorus of "Right on!!" I would hear about the women's retreats and the annual Moloka'i crossing and began looking forward to being a part of those events.

Retirement was creeping closer and I started to ramp up for the move. I bought a condo in Kihei and downloaded a countdown timer to mark off the days. I began packing up my current home and sorting through the accumulation that happens while living in the same home for thirty two years. Purging, estate sale, donations. The days flew by. Finally - my last day of work! Movers came to pack the things that I will be shipping. The next few weeks were a blur of goodbyes, get togethers and prepping the house to sell. Finally, on March 4, 2021 I said "a huo hou" to my son and grandson and boarded the plane to Maui. The culmination of a 15 year dream!

The next morning I went to the little green church and announced that I now was a resident of Maui and declared the meeting in the little green church my home group to a room full of now familiar faces. I had plans to secretary a meeting, get in the middle of the herd, go back to basics with the mind of a newcomer. Instead, on March 17th, we met in the parking lot of the little green church to discuss where we would hold meetings now that Covid-19 had shut down the church and changed the world as we knew it.

Alcoholics Anonymous is both resourceful and resilient. We put our primary purpose into action and, after a few false starts, we settled into online meetings. I am beyond grateful that I established myself in the rooms of Maui AA from the beginning of my sobriety. I stay in the middle of the virtual herd and service opportunities abound. I attend meetings daily and was soon asked to help with technical support for the meetings. I stood for recording secretary as soon as the position opened up. I have a group of women and a new sponsor. I just started as Panel 71 GSR for my home group and I remain teachable. I have grown emotionally and spiritually in this last year and I owe it all to my reliance on a Higher Power and my willingness to be open. I never thought that I would say these words, but I find myself saying them often these days "I am a grateful sober alcoholic!"

Lucy B.
Kihei, HI



*Wanted for next issue - member PRAASA experience,
Step 3 stories, Tradition 3 stories,
Concept 3 experiences*

Next issue for the Mynah Bird will be for the Inform the Delegate Assembly. I will be looking for stories about PRAASA experiences, home group news, new meetings, steps, traditions and concepts stories and or course personal experience, strength and hope. The Mynah Bird is a good place to announce special events in Districts and the Area. Deadline is March 20. Send articles to: mynahbird@area17aa.org

News of Groups

Steps, Traditions, Concepts

Some time last year, about the time we were deciding to go to a digital format, our GSR suggested we do a workshop on the steps since my home group has many “paper-signers” who are not too invested in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and he felt that may be a good way to increase their enthusiasm.

What grew out of that discussion was the idea that we use a regular meeting wherein the format is changed slightly to encourage sharing on a particular step, and that we do them in order to try and present this “workshop” over a twelve-week period. So that is what we did.

The result was not what we had hoped for!

Rather than attract the “newcomers” we were aiming for, the meeting attracted a small group of dedicated AA’ers who were not just willing but anxious to share their experience strength and hope on steps they found particularly meaningful to them. It was inciteful, enthusiastic and highly enjoyable for those of us who participated. The twelfth week came too quickly for this growing band and we had to decide what to do next!

We started on the Traditions. The results were the same; enthusiasm and enjoyment! Clearly we could keep going.

And so we attempted the Concepts. It has been so enjoyable for those who participated that we are now starting over and this week (January 31, 2021) we will be reviewing step seven.

And what we have found is that there are curious members around who are indeed interested in a look at all of the 36 principles of our program and we are beginning to grow!

It’s not the participants we were looking for, but it is a fun group of alcoholics all looking to grow in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. What a blessing and a pleasure it has been!

If you would like to join us on Sunday nights at 5 pm, we can be found at kauaiaa.org. Go to the meetings section and follow the prompts for online meetings.

Thanks for making the effort to read my ramblings!

Jim D

Kauai District 6



Adapting to Change – Knuckleheads Group

We're almost a year into the new Rona living, and although vaccines are starting to be administered, there's still a lot of uncertainty, confusion, and frustration. My homegroup, Knuckleheads, a men's group, meets every Tuesday at 8 pm in the Zoom-a-zoom-zoom-zoom. We've been meeting that way since April, and it has taken some time and effort to adjust.

For a while, our format, which includes a lottery for three-minute shares after a 20-minute speaker, was changed to an open share. We weren't sure how to pull tickets digitally. Service positions changed. We had to drop greeters, literature, and coffee. As jobs disappeared, some people, like one of our secretaries, left the islands. Over time, we adapted. We found an app to handle the tickets and returned to our original format. We found someone to serve as a host and manage the Zoom account. Because the time change was impossible for the old Secretary, we replaced him with someone who could finish the term. We opened a Venmo account for the 7th Tradition. We started settling into the that virtual reality.

While it was easy to spot the problems, or the differences, between the new, electronic meeting and the old, something new and different was also happening. We started seeing each other in our homes, out on the lanai, in cars, and on walks...all on Zoom. That Brady Bunch thing is unifying; I can look up, down, and around, and see my fellows, all of them, face first, in ways I couldn't from a chair, in a row, on the lanai, at Unity Church. The chat also provides a funny side-banter and cross-talk that can't really happen in the flesh. When we share, I still get chicken-skin when I hear something divine. Even though we can't always hear each other laughing, we laugh, and we see the laughter. Before and after the meeting, when we all arrive a little early, all the mics are left open, and everybody starts talking, shouting out greetings, cajoling, poking fun – jazzed to see and be seen, to hear and be heard. The excitement, the divine, is palpable. Even across the interwebs, the language of the heart is still moving.

Knuckleheads is my homegroup, so in addition to going each week, and attending our monthly group conscience led by our GSR, I also have a commitment: I'm the timer. In the flesh, our timer wields a small, stuffed giraffe. I'm sure it's a long and hysterical story, but in the flesh, when that buzzer goes off, the timer launches that giraffe at you. I've held this position before, years ago, and that giraffe; I was quick with the throw. Now, digitally...? My term began at the first of the month, January 5, in fact, and I don't know why, but I've been singing songs when the time's up: The Beastie Boys, Guns 'n Roses, Prince... I'm not a singer, so it's not really pleasant, but it seems to be funny, and we get some laughs out of it. Somebody even had a request on Tuesday. Warren G...you know this cat? One of our speakers in that first or second week shared about Rule 62 – Never take yourself too seriously. That's a great reminder to me of the gift the meetings in AA provide me as an alcoholic – a chance to be the best me I'm likely to be all day. Outside of meetings, I can always aspire to move in that direction, too.

-Brooke C. (May 1, 2001)