

**A.A.
IN THE
WAIANAE
DISTRICT**

Hawaii Area
Archives Committee

June 28, 2005

THE WAIANAE DISTRICT (District #17)

It seems likely that individual A.A. members resided on, or visited, the Waianae Coast many years before the registration of the first “local” A.A. group. It is also probable that two or more of these members “met together for the purpose of sobriety” and, thus, held the earliest meeting of A.A. on the Waianae Coast. However, if such a meeting occurred, it has been lost to history.

The first available historical evidence of A.A. on the West Side is contained in the A.A. Directory of 1965. That GSO-published document lists 22 A.A. groups, with 271 members, on all of Oahu. One of these meetings was the “Waianae Group.” No meeting day is provided, and the number of members in the group is not listed. The group contact person – Lee K. – was shown to reside at 84-130 Water Street, in Waianae. However, in the 1966 A.A. Directory, he was shown to have a Schofield Barracks address. Thus, it can be speculated that Lee K. was a soldier, and a sober member of A.A., who was assigned to the Army Recreation Center in Waianae, and who started a meeting to serve the members of A.A. who resided or worked in Waianae. (The inclusion of the group in the 1965 A.A. Directory indicates that it was registered with GSO, in New York, during 1964. Unfortunately, no A.A. schedule from 1964 or 1965 is available to confirm the existence of the group, and a March 1965 schedule of meetings [produced by Oahu Intergroup] does not list a Waianae Group. Therefore, it would appear that the first A.A. group to be registered in the Waianae-area was very short-lived.)

A.A. groups were to be found at Wheeler Air Base (beginning in 1959), Barbers Point (1960), Ewa Beach (1962) and Waipahu (1965), but there is no record of any meeting on the Waianae Coast until September 1969. The minutes of the Oahu Intergroup meeting held on September 24, 1969 report that, “a new meeting called the Waianae Day Treatment meeting was announced. It is held on Sunday, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM at the Sacred Heart Church in Waianae.” The group was represented at that meeting by George S., who also attended the Intergroup meeting on December 29, 1969 and listed the “Waianae Group” on the attendance roster as the group he was representing..

Apparently, this group did not survive since. In February 1970, Oahu Intergroup created four geographic areas for purposes of communication with the 26 groups that existed at the time. The Leeward District extended west from Kalihi Street, Likelike Highway and the crests of the Koolau Mountains, encompassing about two-thirds of Oahu, including the Ewa plain, the Waianae Coast, Central Oahu, and the North Shore as far east as Sunset Beach. This vast area included five groups, but none of these was on the West Side. Alcoholics who lived on the Waianae Coast had “to be willing to go to any lengths” to get to an A.A. meeting in those days.

However, that situation was soon corrected. In March of 1970, A.A. came to the Waianae Coast, and it came to stay! An unsigned, undated “history” of the “Waianae

Outdoor Speaker Discussion Group – Mosquito Junction,” contained in the Hawaii Area Archives, reports that—

“In March, 1970, Maggie & Bud N., Gloria & Morie T., Matt S., Pat, and Bobette met in a Quonset hut adjacent to the Sacred Heart Church on the Waianae Coast of Hawaii. Bobette brought her addiction of alcohol, and Hawaii Folk Lore to this; the birth of Waianae Monday Night A.A.”

The March 1970 starting date for the first Waianae Coast group is probably correct, since the “Waianae Group” is listed in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule for April 1970. The meeting schedule shows that the meeting was being held at “Sacred Heart Church, Old Government Road, but it is listed as being at 8 PM on Thursday, not on Monday as claimed by the unknown historian, cited above.

This reporter goes on to say that—

“In December 1970, this small group was joined by Clancy U., who brought the guidance of Dr. Bob in the form of 30 years sobriety, and the “Four Absolutes,” making this the first group west of St. Louis to include much of the “pre-Big Book” format in our meetings.

“In 1972, Reverend Charles Wothke, Pastor of Maluhia Lutheran Church, offered the patio of the small utility building ... to this small group, creating the Waianae Monday Outdoor Group, the first to celebrate Sobriety under the Hawaiian stars.

“In these early years, the group expanded with the addition of workers on the Makaha Towers, John, Don R. from Alaska, Tom M. and Ken F. Later to be joined by Maude & Bernie W. in the late 70’s. The “Schofield Boys” challenged the pass on a regular basis. Marge M. joined about this time, and many of the original members left the island.”

The date of the move of the group to the Maluhia Lutheran Church cannot be verified from documents in the Hawaii Area Archives. A meeting schedule from April 1972 shows the group still meeting on Thursdays, at 8:00 PM, “Back of Catholic Church, Waianae.” However, a schedule for September 1974 shows the “Waianae-Maile Group was meeting on Monday nights at 8:00 PM, at Waianae Lutheran Church. It provides a contact: “Call Clancy 668-8776.”

It would appear that the “Waianae-Maile Group” (as it was referred to in all A.A. schedules between September 1974 and August 1981) was the only “permanent” A.A. group on the Waianae Coast until July of 1982. By that time, Lynn McK. had started the Ohana Hale treatment facility and began the Ohana Hale meeting on Saturdays at 8 PM, at 86-631 Puuhulu Road, Waianae. The Ohana Hale meetings lasted until July 1997, when the ill-health and death of its founder led to the closing of Ohana Hale.

The Waianae-Maile Group seems to have been a very stable group throughout the years of its existence. The group held a speaker/discussion meeting at the Maluhia Lutheran Church every Monday, at 8:00 PM, for nine years, apparently from 1972 to 1981, before changing its name to the “Waianae Monday Group.” It appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule with that name in December 1981. No other change in the group’s name, meeting time, meeting place, meeting day or meeting duration was reported until late 1987.

For some reason, during the Fall of 1987, the Waianae Monday Group, and all four of the other night time meetings in Waianae changed from one hour meetings to one and a half hour meetings, and they remained 90 minute meetings for the next three years. The Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule for February 1990 shows that all of these meetings, in unison, switched back to one hour meetings, again without explanation. The change back to an hour-long meeting appears to be the last change in the Waianae Monday Group for another eight years. The June 1998 Central Office Report informs the Fellowship that the group has once again changed its name – this time to the “Waianae Monday Night Mosquito Junction Group.” At this writing (April 2003), the group continues to use the Mosquito Junction name and it continues to serve the Waianae (and Oahu) A.A. Fellowship with the same high-quality speaker/discussion meeting that it has offered for the past 35 years.

Following the formation of the Ohana Hale meeting, the next group to form in the Waianae area was the Friday Night Ohana Group, which did not appear in the November 1982 Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule, but was formed in time to appear in the January 1983 schedule. The group was shown to be meeting on Fridays at 8:00 PM, in the Waianae Satellite City Hall Conference Room. Except for the three-year experiment with an hour and a half meeting, the Ohana Group made no significant changes in its particulars until October 1998, when it changed its name to the “Waianae Friday Night Group” and in September 1999, when the “Ohana” was restored to the group’s name. The Waianae Friday Night Ohana Group continues to meet in the Waianae Satellite City Hall Conference Room, at 8:00 PM every Friday, just as it has for more than 22 years.

The next group – still in existence – to come into being was the Waianae Men’s Stag Group, which first appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule of September 1983. This group’s closed speaker/discussion meeting was held at the Sacred Heart Church, at 7:00 PM, on Wednesday. By September 1984 the starting time had changed to 8:00 PM. The group participated in the three-year change to a 90 minute meeting, but then made no changes until August of 1996, when it changed its starting time to 7:45 PM, and resumed a one and one-half hour meeting. On June 6, 2001, for reasons not known to the Hawaii Area Archives, the group moved from its long-time meeting place in Waianae to the Nanakuli Baptist Church, 87-1948 Mohihi Street.

After two years at the Nanakuli Baptist Church, the group returned to Waianae. The Oahu Intergroup Fall 2003 meeting schedule showed that the group was now meeting at the Maluhia Lutheran Church, 85-256 Farrington Highway, the fourth A.A. group now meeting at that location. In its 23rd year of service to the A.A. Fellowship,

the Waianae Men's Stag Group continues to be a closed, 90-minute, speaker/discussion meeting, starting at 7:45 PM every Friday night.

The women of the Waianae Coast were quick to see the need for a women's stag meeting, and Maude W., "Samee" S. and Sally H. formed such a meeting in January 1985. The group came into being as the "Leeward Women's Group," holding its open, one hour meetings on Wednesdays (the same day as the men's stag meeting), at 7:45 PM, at the Satellite City Hall. The format of the meeting called for speaker/discussion to alternate with reading and discussion of passages from a daily meditation book. Baby sitting service was available

By November 1985 the group had changed its name to the Waianae Coast Women's Group. From the outset, the group was active in the activities of the Leeward District (of which it was then a part), the Oahu Intergroup and Hawaii Area. Sally H. regularly made the trip into Honolulu for the Intergroup meetings and, during its first year of existence, the group contributed \$147.59 to Intergroup, noteworthy generosity on the part of so new a group.

Like every other night meeting in Waianae, the Waianae Coast Women's Group increased its meeting length to ninety minutes in the Fall of 1987, kept it that way for three years, and then reverted to its original one hour format at the end of 1990. Otherwise, the changes in the group's meeting were limited to shifting between allowing smoking and not allowing smoking. Then, in January 1993, after meeting for eight years at the Satellite City Hall, the group's meetings were moved to the "Army Rest Camp, Recreation Center, off Farrington Hwy, Waianae." For the next 18 months, the group was nomadic, moving from place to place before finally returning, in July 1994, to the Waianae Satellite City Hall. During that period, the group met not only at the Army Recreation Center, but also in Room C-103 at Waianae High School, as well as at Kahumana, on Lualualei Homestead Road.

Upon its return to the Satellite City Hall, the Waianae Coast Women's Group retained the 8:00 PM starting time that it had adopted when it moved to the Army Recreation Center; however, it did extend the meeting duration to an hour and a half. Today, eleven years later, the group continues to meet for 90 minutes of "Women's Discussion," every Wednesday at 8:00 PM, at the Waianae Satellite City Hall.

After the founding of the Waianae Coast Women's Group in January 1985, it was another four years before another group was started on the West Side. The Oahu Central Office Report of February 1989 noted a new meeting on Sunday, at 10:00 AM, at Pokai Bay Beach. The "Eye Opener Group" had come into being. The records in the Hawaii Area Archives reflect no changes in that group since that time. Sixteen years later, the Eye Opener Group still meets every Sunday morning for one hour, beginning at 10:00 AM, at Pokai Bay Beach, in Waianae. In retrospect, it seems strange that it took about 25 years of A.A. presence on the Waianae Coast before the first "beach meeting" was created.

With the addition of the Eye Opener Group, there was now a meeting somewhere on the Waianae Coast every day, except Tuesday and Thursday. It was only a matter of time before these “pukas” were filled, and the wait was only one year before the first hole in the schedule was plugged. In February 1990, the Central Office Report listed a new meeting on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. The group was named the Nanaikapono 12 Step Group, and it met in the Nanaikapono Protestant Church, on Pua Avenue, in Nanakuli. Recognizing the guidance of the Fifth Tradition concerning the problem of affiliation, the name of the group was changed to “Principles Before Personalities” before it was first listed in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule in May 1990. Fifteen years after its founding, the Principles Before Personalities Group remains at Nanaikapono Protestant Church in Nanakuli; it continues to meet at 8:00 PM every Thursday; presumably, it continues to focus on A.A.’s 12 Step program of recovery.

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The final puka was filled with the creation of the Courage to Change Group. This group was first reported in the January 1991 Central Office Report, as follows:

NEW MEETING:

Courage to Change, at Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae, Monday through Saturday, inclusive, at 7:00 AM; Sunday Eye Opener Group still meets at 10:00 AM.

Although the Courage to Change Group was not mentioned in the Central Office Report in December 1990, it is thought likely that the group actually began to meet prior to January 1991. This conclusion is based upon a Group Information Report, produced by G.S.O. on October 8, 1991, which shows “GROUP B’DAY 1990.” This would indicate that either the group was registered with G.S.O. during 1990, or G.S.O. was otherwise informed that it was founded in 1990. Whatever the case, the Courage to Change Group has been a fixture on Pokai Bay Beach, Monday thru Saturday at 7:00 AM, for more than fourteen years. For the first five years, the meeting was only an hour long; however, since March of 1996, the meeting has been an hour and a half in length.

With the creation of the Courage to Change Group, the Waianae Coast now had at least one A.A. meeting every day of the week. There was a morning meeting 7 days a week, but there were evening meetings only 5 days a week – there was not yet a Tuesday or a Sunday evening meeting. This lack was partially resolved in January 1991, with the establishment of the Waianae Big Book Study Group. The group was reported as a new group in the Central Office Report of February 1991: “Waianae Big Book: Sacred Hearts Church, 84-675 Lahaina St., Waianae. Sunday at 7:00 PM. Big Book Discussion; 1 ½ hour meeting.” However, the G.S.O.-prepared Group Information Report, dated October 8, 1991, shows a Group Birthday of January 1991. In either event, the group first appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule in June 1991.

The March 1993 Central Office Report noted that: “Waianae Big Book now called Sunday Night Open Book Study, still at Sacred Hearts Church, 85-786 Old Government Road, Waianae. Discussion/Big Book & Step Study. One and one half hours, starts at 7:00 PM.” The Central Office Report of May 1998 noted that “Sunday Night Open Book Study now meets at Pokai Bay Beach Park.” The group continued to

meet at that location, for an hour and a half, every Sunday evening, starting at 7:00 PM, until early 2004, at which time it began to meet at 5:00 PM. The Oahu Intergroup meeting schedules since that time have not shown the meeting to be 90 minutes in length.

At the Hawaii Area Assembly held in Honolulu on August 8-9, 1992, Joan K., the DCM of the Leeward District, reported that “Our past two (district) meetings have been spent discussing our district split. In June we decided to split. At our July 30th meeting we voted to split into the following four (4) districts: WAIANAЕ COAST, PEARL CITY/AIEA/MOANALUA, EWA/PEARL CITY and AIRPORT/PEARL HARBOR. At our August meeting we will decide when this split will be effective. Most likely January 1, 1993, giving the new districts time to organize.”

So it was that the Waianae District (District #17) came into existence. The first District Committee Member (DCM) was Bernie W., previously cited as one of the early members of the Mosquito Junction Group, while Roland L. was the Alternate DCM. At the time of the establishment of the Waianae District, there were 14 meetings in the district, as shown in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule of March 1993:

Monday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion
8:00 PM Waianae Monday Group, Maluhia Lutheran Church,
85-256 Farrington Hwy., Waianae

Tuesday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion

Wednesday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion
12 NOON Ohana Hale Brownbaggers, 86-631 Puuhulu Rd., Waianae
8:00 PM Waianae Coast Women’s; Army Rest Camp, Recreation Center,
off Farrington Hwy., Waianae

Thursday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion
8:00 PM Principles Before Personalities, Nanaikapono Prot. Church,
89-235 Pua Ave., Nanakuli (off Nanakuli Rd.) NS

Friday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion
8:00 PM Ohana Group, Waianae Satellite City Hall Conference Room

Saturday

7:00 AM Courage to Change, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae. Discussion
8:00 PM Ohana Hale, 86-631 Puuhulu Road, Waianae

Sunday

10:00 AM Eye-Opener, Pokai Bay Beach, Waianae
7:00 PM Sunday Night Open Book Study, Sacred Hearts Church,
85-786 Old Government Rd., Waianae; Big Book & Step Study

The first new group to be formed after the creation of the Waianae District was the Sober Sisters Step Study Group. It was reported as a new meeting in the Central Office Report of April 1993, which listed it as a non-smoking meeting, at 7:30 PM on Wednesdays, at the Waianae Satellite City Hall. In January 1994, the Sober Sisters Group moved to the Maluhia Lutheran Church. Finally, in August 1995, the women of the Waianae Coast were no longer forced to choose which women's meeting they would attend on Wednesday night. They could now go to both meetings if they chose to do so, because the Sober Sisters Group changed their meeting day to Tuesday, still at the Maluhia Lutheran Church. The starting time was also changed to 8:00 PM.. Then, in early 1999, the group changed its meeting from Tuesday to Thursday night, and increased its length to an hour and a half. It is still found at the Maluhia Lutheran Church on Thursday nights, and the women of the Waianae Coast can still attend both women's meetings if they choose to do so.

The July 1996 Central Office Report informed the fellowship of the formation of the Out of Sight Group, meeting on Tuesday night from 8:00 to 9:30 PM, at Pokai Bay Beach Park, Waianae. The format of the meeting was shown as "Discussion & Speaker." Finally, after more than 30 years of growth and development, the district now had an evening meeting, as well as a morning meeting, every day. The group has now been meeting for nine years, without changing its name, its format, its location, or the day, time or duration of its meeting – a stable group if ever there was one.

The Seeking the Truth Group was listed as a new meeting in the Central Office Report of November 1997, the same month in which it first appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule. The group began with an hour and a half meeting, on Saturday night at 7:00 PM, at Pokai Bay Beach Park ("right side of bathrooms; bring your own mat"). By the Fall of 1998, the group had moved to the "left side of bathrooms," and during the Summer of 2001, the group moved to the Maluhia Lutheran Church, where it still meets at 7:00 PM every Saturday night for one and one half hours.

The Lunch Bunch Group was first listed in the Oahu Intergroup Spring/Summer 1998 meeting schedule, published in March 1998. Darweshi H., then sober for more than a dozen years, lived in the Waikiki area, but had taken a job on the Waianae Coast. Feeling the need for a noon meeting, Darweshi enlisted the help of Rodney K. and, together, they founded the Lunch Bunch Group in January of 1998. At its inception, the group met at noon, Monday thru Friday, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 87-227 St. John's Road, in Ma'ili. Initially, the group had a discussion format, but John P. influenced the group to adopt a literature-based format. During the Fall of 2001, the group changed the starting time of its meetings to 12:30 PM.

Sometime during the latter part of 2004, the Lunch Bunch meetings were suspended. The group meetings were not listed in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedules which were published in September 2004 and March 2005. However, in April 2005, the group circulated a flyer, unannouncing the re-activation of the Lunch Bunch Group, Monday through Friday, at 1:00 PM, at the Ma'ili Beach Park, opposite St. John's

Road. (At this writing, June 28, 2005, the circumstances surrounding the closing and reopening of the group have not been determined by the Hawaii Area Archives.)

The formation of the Any Length Group was announced in the Oahu Intergroup Central Office Report of December 1999, as follows: “WEEKDAYS: Any Length Group, Ma’ili Beach Park at St. John’s Road, Waianae. Big Book Discussion. Meets on Beach side. 5:00 PM.” Thereafter, the group appeared in the Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule as of the Spring/Summer 2000 issue. By that time, the group had extended its Friday meeting to 1-1/2 hours to accommodate a speaker/discussion format. This change was noted in the Oahu Intergroup Central Office Report of March 2000.

The most recently formed (and still existing) A.A. group on the Waianae Coast is the Ma’ili Sunset Group. This group first appeared in the Spring/Summer 2002 meeting schedule which was published in March of that year. Thus, the group was formed at some point between August 2001 (the closing date for the Fall/Winter 2001 schedule) and March 2002, although the group is not mentioned in any of the Oahu Intergroup Central Office Reports during that period. Interestingly, the group meets on Monday thru Friday, at the Ma’ili Beach Park, at St. John’s Road, at 6:00 PM. (Of course, the Any Length Group meets in the same park, beginning at 5:00 PM.) Nowhere else on Oahu can one attend two entire A.A. meetings in a two hour period at the same location. One cannot help but wonder if the formation of the Ma’ili Sunset Group was not the product of someone’s discontent with some aspect or member of the Any Length Group.

There was no recorded change in the day, time or place of the meetings of the Ma’ili Sunset Group until publication of the Oahu Intergroup Spring/Summer 2005 meeting schedule. That schedule dropped the Monday and Tuesday Meetings, but retained the Wednesday through Friday meetings at their regular time and place.

Thus did the Waianae District grow from a single group, formed in March of 1970, as part Oahu Intergroup’s Leeward Area, to become District #17 of the Hawaii Area, with 29 weekly meetings, involving 14 individual groups. More than half of that growth (15 meetings) has occurred in the last 13 years since the formation of the Waianae District. Thanks to cultural and geographic factors, the Waianae District enjoys a cohesiveness, a level of involvement and enthusiasm that is the envy of many other Oahu A.A. districts. It is difficult to imagine that the character of the District will not remain as it is in the years to come.

(This is a revision, made June 22-28, 2005, in the Waianae District History, originally published on April 7, 2003. Reader comments and corrections are welcomed. Please contact the Archives Committee archives@area17aa.org)