



# MYNAH BIRD

## HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER

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March issue:



Area Website: [www.area17aa.org](http://www.area17aa.org)

Articles to: [mynahbird@area17aa.org](mailto:mynahbird@area17aa.org)

**Committee Meeting** May/June 2020 Central North Shore District #9, Oahu

**Budget Assembly** August 2020 Honolulu District #2, Oahu

**Committee Meeting (Optional)** October 2020 Puna #12, Hawaii Island

**Election Assembly** November 2020 Kauai #6, Kauai

**Hawaii Area Committee**  
**P.O. Box 1413**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96806**

**Grand Central Station**  
**New York, NY 1016**  
**P.O. Box 459**

Who should attend:

Committee Meetings: Attendance by DCMs, Area Standing Committee Chairs, and Area Officers is required. GSRs are not required to attend but strongly encouraged.

Assemblies: GSRs, DCMs, Area and District Standing Committee Chairs, Area Officers, others as necessary.

*“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.”*

**Q: What is the Mynah Bird?**

**A: The Mynah Bird is the Hawaii Area Newsletter. A newsletter to inform Hawaii members of Alcoholics Anonymous of what we do at these assemblies/committee meetings. Where these assemblies/committee meetings are being held and what we are discussing at these assemblies/committee meeting. The Mynah Bird also contains stories of members experience, strength and hope in recovering from alcohol as well a general service work in alcoholics anonymous. The Mynah Bird is for those who may not have access to online services. If you would like to submit a story, please send to: [mynahbird@area17aa.org](mailto:mynahbird@area17aa.org)**

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**WORDSEARCH – Inform the Delegate**

**The committee meeting** held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> of 2020 was hosted by District 17 on the West side of Oahu. It was attended by the Area Officer's, Standing Committee Chairs and DCM's from each island. This committee meeting was to get the agenda items from our delegate to distribute to the GSR's. The committee meeting was a success and the GSR's will be getting those agenda items to their groups to review, discuss or consider and bring back the sense of their group to the Inform the Delegate Assembly which will be held on Maui in the month of April.

Ernest S

**I attended** the area committee meeting this Saturday and it was business as usual and I must say, at first I was somewhat skeptical, thinking about the upcoming Inform the Delegate process in preparation for the General Service Conference, thinking to myself, here we go again....it is going to be impossible to get a hold of all the GSR's that are on the Public Information committee ! But then the Registrar provided us a list and I thought to myself, the best I can do is reach out and if I get a respond then cool, if not, oh well but at least I need to make an attempt.

OMG, we have (3) topics and (1) is needing a "REVIEW" and the other two topics is a "Consider." Pretty much is a "YES and/or NO" Review / or a "YES and/or NO" consider.

I discovered that all this years being in service at this level when receiving these thumb drives and given a thick reading on these changes that GSO is asking the fellowship to make a decision on, I was overwhelmed and really not so interested in paying attention to the HOW and WHY these topics all came about. Now at 23 years sober, and a little more grown up, I found out last night that going through the topics and reading the background history is sooooo simple. I was able to understand what was going on and was able to conclude an opinion of my own on these (3) topics. However that is not how it goes, my opinion would be the last resort, but first and foremost, we need to get this information to the fellowship, starting with yourselves and your home group so that we can bring it to the Inform the Delegate Assembly coming in April on the island of Maui.

When reading the back ground history.... I found myself having some emotions, especially as the subject is real. It really got my brains working and I was able to discuss this with another member and we had quite a dialogue going on. I encourage you all to check it out. I have the password, if you don't have it yet from your District DCM and the dilemma I have is that the contact information that I have is only through your email (for most of you) and we are not allowed to email the password, we can only text it. It is real simple to get to.... Once you open up the Area17aa.org, it will take you to the home page and all you have to do is scroll down to VII Public Information, then punch in the Password and TAADAAA!!!

So please, I may not have your phone numbers and I am asking you to text me your contact number so that I can get the information to you.

Grateful to be in service and Mahalo

Deborah L. (PI CHAIR)

# DELEGATE REPORT

Hawai`i Area 17, Panel 69

Committee Meeting

February 22, 2020



## 2020: A Clear Vision for You

### Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly

March 6-8, 2020 in Tucson, AZ

Westin Paloma Resort

go to [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org) for details

Aloha Hawaii Area 17,

The General Service Conference theme 2020: A Clear Vision for You accurately reflects the agenda items for our 70<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. This year we are asked to look at our pamphlets, books and our online presence.

Each Inform the Delegate Panel focuses on GSC agenda topics that suggest modifications, changes or new ways to convey our message of hope to those still suffering alcoholics we are here to help.

We each have our own reasons why the A.A. message is near and dear to our hearts. As we do our work to prepare for and present at the ITD Assembly, two suggestions from the Trustees board weekend stood out for me: "How we do things in service is more important than "what" we do – you can undo a bad decision but you can't undo bad conduct." and, "It doesn't matter if you are in the minority or the majority, you are part of the group conscience."

So, let's work together in love and service for our area and for A.A. as a whole.

Coleen A. Hawaii Area 17 Delegate, Panel 69  
delegate@area17aa.org  
Agenda Committee

### AA 2020 International Convention

July 2-5, 2020 Detroit, Michigan

Registrations online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Preregistration is \$115

On April 15<sup>th</sup> registration will go up to \$140.

Hotel rooms are still available and shuttles will be provided.

There is so much to do, and if you'd like to volunteer while you are there, reach out to AAGV or AAWS to volunteer.

BTW- if you plan on staying in Windsor or traveling to Canada, you'll need a passport.

#### **The Pacific Region Hospitality Suite**

**The Westin Hotel Book Cadillac**

**Crystal Ballroom**

**1114 Washington Blvd. Detroit MI**

Hawaii Area 17 hosts the following time slots:

Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Noon-2:00 PM

Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:00-6:00 PM

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> Noon-2:00 PM

*Mare, our CEC Chair has volunteered to create a poster board display that represents Area 17.*

*If you have an anonymity protected photo of your group that could be included please email it to Mare at [cec@area17aa.org](mailto:cec@area17aa.org), or send you photo to [delegate@area17aa.org](mailto:delegate@area17aa.org) and I'll forward it to her!*

### Delegate Travels 2020

PRAASA March 6-8  
Tucson, AZ

Inform the Delegate Assembly  
April 4-5 Maui  
No Ka `O'i District #5

General Service Conference  
April 19-25  
Rye, NY

Committee Meeting May 16  
Central North Shore District #9

### Delegate Report Backs

June 6 - #8 Kona

June 7 - #12 Puna & #7 Hilo-  
Hamakua

June 14 - #6 Kauai

August 1 - #17 Waianae, #9

Central North Shore, #3 Leeward

August 2, #4 Windward

(DCMS please schedule)

International Convention  
July 2-5, 2020 Detroit, MI

Regional Forum. August 21-23  
Las Vegas, NV

Budget Assembly August 29-30  
Honolulu District #2

Committee Meeting Oct. 3  
Puna District #12

Election Assembly. Nov. 14-15  
Kauai District #6

### Procedures for the AA Grapevine Carry the Message Project:

**To sponsor a subscription for  
unknown alcoholics in need;  
individual members, groups,  
areas or districts may  
purchase print subscriptions  
and forward the gift certificate  
email  
to [nherron@aagrapevine.org](mailto:nherron@aagrapevine.org)  
for redemption.**

### Highlights from the January 2020 Board Weekend

**Pacific Regional Trustee's Report:** The weekend focused on the conference Theme "2020: A Clear Vision for You" agenda items, progress reports, conversations and information exchanges. The Trustees Committees are working very hard with the fellowship in mind and working together very well for the good of A.A. which included some difficult conversations.

**Corrections-** This past quarter, the Corrections Desk has received more than 400 letters per month for correspondence or literature. A total of 6,000 letters were answered in 2019.

**Finance-** Contributions for 2019 hit a new record of 8.8 million. Thank you to all the Groups for continuing to support Your services. Total revenues were almost 4% greater and operating expenses were almost 8% greater than 2018.

**Public Information-** A press release will be sent out when our new video "Young and Sober in A.A.: from Drinking to Recovery" is posted on aa.org and the AAWS YouTube Channel.

**Publishing –** AAWS had budgeted for 100,000 copies of Our Great Responsibility and sales have been closer to 35,000.

**AAGV/ LV-** The new website is complete, and is more compatible on your mobile devices. The newest YouTube videos include explainer videos for GV/LV reps, and audio stories from Women is Sobriety. The focus in 2020 is the Grapevine and La Viña Carry the Message project. Please consider purchasing gift certificates for an inmate, loner or elder for example.

For more information go to [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)  
LaViña archives is now up and running.

**International-** A few planned trips in 2020 include Portugal's Annual Service Meeting, Bolivia's 24<sup>th</sup> National Convention and Australia's 55<sup>th</sup> International Convention.

**Kathi, our Pacific Regional Trustee ended her report by saying "Thank you for allowing me to be of service! I am filled with gratitude to do this work and I will never be able to repay A.A. although I will continue to try!"**

Prior to the GSC, a 2020 Remote Communities Meeting is held. All areas are invited to submit an article for the annual journal.

With your input and help, we can share how Hawaii transcends the barriers of geography, language, culture and life conditions to carry our message to all who seek it. Share what your members, meetings district, or island is doing, and I'll pass it on.

Please email to [delegate@aareal7aa.org](mailto:delegate@aareal7aa.org) by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **Corrections Standing Committee**

### **Report January 2020**

#### **Inventory Assembly:**

Aloha Fellow Trusted Servants,

**On the Big Island**, Mark N. reports we have 16 members cleared to bring AA meetings to Kulani and 18 cleared to bring AA meetings to Hale Nani. Not everyone who is cleared is doing regular Corrections service, but we're generally able to cover the 3 meetings every week. Kulani is Saturdays at 5:30pm. Hale Nani meetings are on Tuesday at 6:30pm (women) and 7pm (men.)

We're working with HCCC and Kulani Corrections staff to get approval to implement a "Pre-Release" process at Kulani.

A VolinCor training is scheduled for Saturday January 25, 2020. The last one was on October 27, 2019.

We have a standing request for groups or individuals to donate new and/or used AA literature (e.g. Big Books, Twelve and Twelve, Living Sober and Grapevines) to the Corrections Committee. We've received individual AA member and group donations, and 3 subscriptions to the Grapevine from Hilo District 7. We also are supported by West Hawaii District 8 and Area 17 for literature distribution to inmates at all 3 meetings. The inmates in all 3 meetings really appreciate the AA literature we can give them.

Currently all 3 Big Island Districts participate in a combined Corrections Committee. We hold a meeting approximately once every 2-3 months for all 3 Big Island AA Districts. The last one was held in Hilo on November 10, 2019.

**On Maui**, since recent changes in staff, procedures have become easier to bring meeting into MCCC. We are now able to schedule anyone who is currently cleared to facilitate meeting without needed to have a memo with specific names for that day sent out, and we were just notified of all the VolinCor

Training dates for 2020; April 20-21, Aug 17-18 & Nov 9-10. We now send the contact info of hopeful participants to the coordinator and they will send paperwork directly to them.

**For Kauai**, I do not have much updated information, but meetings are going into KCCC, which I was told were interrupted for a time by ongoing renovations.

I have continued to help supply literature for jail meetings, ordering more big books for Maui meetings last month and arranging for some large print 12x12's to be available for pickup by Oahu committee at Central Office this month.

Thank you for the opportunity to help the hand of A.A. to reach behind the walls,

**Area 17 Corrections  
Standing Committee Chair,  
Sean C.**



As I sit here at home contemplating over the past 2 days of the 2020 Inventory assembly held in Honolulu, I sit here with total respect for the men & women in the fellowship that came before me. The men & women that held the "Transportation Chair position" in previous years for past assemblies. For it takes a lot out on a person at any level of one's recovery. Preparing months ahead, making announcements at meetings etc. Time, patience, rejection & acceptance happens while in this process of finding members who are willing to be in service. Willing, to take time out of their busy lives to help out another alcoholic get to their designated Homestays, hotels as well as the assembly itself. I am forever grateful to the fellowship in teaching the true meaning of suit up & show up. But when all is said and done and the gratitude from committee members as well as those who received transportation throughout the past 2 days is directed towards you. You have a sense of GRATITUDE for the service of others. Mahalo to all members who were in transportation service, we couldn't have achieved this without you!!

Anson D.



3 drunk guys entered a taxi. The taxi driver knew that they were drunk so he started the engine and turned it off again. He told them, "We are here." The first guy gave him the money and the second guy said, "Thanks you." The third guy gave the driver a slap. The driver was shocked, thinking the third drunk knew what he did. But he asked, "Whats that for?" The third guy replied, "CONTROL YOUR SPEED NEXT TIME, YOU NEARLY KILLED US!"

Lol 😄😄😄😄😄

**Bonds we form** I know of a fellow member from back in da day'z that is at a time when he is not able to make meetings and there is a score of men with an abundant amount of time ranging from months, years and 20 plus that have for many years taking a meeting to this wonderful man's home for decades, till this day. He once sat with us and told us of what AA was like in his days when he was actively involved in his homegroup, Malia's Discussion and I remember it was like chicken skin. The beauty of this, is that I get to hang out with the wives of these men once a month and enjoy a dinner at a different restaurant of our choice and fellowship. I have been attending these dinner -gathering for (2) years now and am so grateful that they have invited me to join them, because after all, not only am a member of AA, I too, am a Al-Anon. I must say, I look forward to the men meeting with Uncle Cliff once a month at his home, because if it wasn't for that, I would not have met these women that are really fun to be around. Soberly, I get to be a part of and just be me, just like with AA. The relationships that I have in AA and Al-anon, is truly a Blessing and I foresee these relationships lasting for as long as I am above ground and breathing. Sobriety is awesome!!!! So to this member from back in da day"z. it's a give and receive kind of thing, no we don't see you at meetings anymore, but yet at the same time, in more than many ways you are helping this Alcoholic stay sober for another day!!! (Eh, I just had a moment, just wanted to respond to this thread about the Elderly statesmen and women in our community-Aloha and have a great day!!!!)

**Deborah L.  
Area 17 PI-Chair**

(2) Two out (7) seven response from Inventory Assembly.  
Two response will be added to each Mynah Bird Issue.

**Inventory Assembly 1-25/26-2020 Inventory Questions Group #1 Note taker: Penelope  
Opened with serenity prayer**

**1. What is the purpose of Area? Are we fulfilling that purpose?**

A. -flow of information does not stop keep all groups districts informed - to have unity, increase unity support ideas.

- to get information from GSO to relay info to area assemblies, districts, groups, inform the delegate to take to GSO.

-DCMs are links in the chain from drunks on the street to GSO conduit for all the information from assembly area committee meetings

B. Yes.

**2. How effective is area 17 in its role as the conduit of information from our groups to the general service conference?**

-Conduit to get info to GSR are to groups

- 36 groups 10 have GSR's

- newcomer packets distributed to groups that don't have GSRs - adopt a meeting share info to other groups

- caravan meetings bring info to other groups

- workshops for groups

- in form register groups it's their responsibility to join.

**3. Is Area 17 informing the DCM and GSR members with useable and accurate information to share and inform their groups?**

-GSRs get information from area and DCM's

-using the website is a good tool to get information to bring back to your groups - under what to



take back on the area website as info to take back to your groups

**4. How effective is the area at making general service inclusive to home group members?**

- 14 districts pulling the hat to decide at committee meeting which island to host the meetings.
- trade off events on different islands brings up issues from groups districts areas and vote at assembly. - some groups don't do the splits
- anyone is welcome to the assembly do not have to pay \$25 fee - bring new people to district

**5. Has the Area utilized the 12 traditions in its service structure and the way it conducts business at committee meetings and assemblies?**

- Committee and assemblies do utilize the 12 traditions
- example of not following traditions not letting the minority opinion be heard and personalities take over the meeting and assemblies.
- loosely follow Robert's rules of order
- our experience has shown each group district and area is autonomous

**6. Do our groups understand how our area uses their 7th tradition contribution, and does our members understand area's priority of spending?**

- Area priority of spending is to have our voice sent to the delegate to inform the delegates -the election assembly.

**7. Do contributions to area provide good services to the groups and district?**

- Contributions may mean dollar from same group and some do not contribute
- AA should stay the same all around the world
- tradition 7 applies to all levels of area district groups at the group level group decides parity of spending

**8. Is the budget process and the work of the finance committee helping the area and informing our members adequately?**

- Finance has reps from each island GSR's can get budget and informed the group.

**9. How well are our standing committee's fulfilling their purpose, can committees be more effective? How?**

- Standing committee's work with DCM to get info out because all committees are not all on the same island.
- used popsicle sticks to even out committees.
- bring back information from your committee to the groups.
- add a Co-Chair to the committee so they can take over as committee chair.

**10. Was area effective in using the inventory of the last panel to improve the effectiveness of the present panel?**

- Sounds like the inventories are working to help the present panel to make improvements and changes

**11. Has the voting process at area helped us in the ability to trust god and our group conscience? Do we report back with humility or with our shaded opinion?**

- We let God decide sometimes we pull out of the hat
- humility is need for our trusted servants
- bring a proposal to your district experienced the process even if it doesn't pass - some GSR as bring back their own opinions listen

**12. Do we have any additional suggestions or feedback to improve area in 2020?**

- Susie likes that we were given what to take back to our groups - likes the timeline of 2020 panel calendar helps a lot

**Inventory Assembly 1-25/26-2020**

**Inventory Questions Group #2 Note taker: Tanya**

**-Opened with serenity prayer**

**1. What is the purpose of Area? Are we fulfilling that purpose?**

- (A). Carry the message of AA and service between groups and gso
- serve as link
- leadership responsible for health of the conference structure
- (B). yes

**2. How effective is area 17 in its role as the conduit of information from our groups to the general service conference?**

- We are only as effective as our GSRs
- we are each a small part of the whole
- GSR is only as effective as the group
- (Participation) we do our job to the best of our ability we are elected as GSR to be the voice of our group and carry the message between assemblies and groups

**3. Is Area 17 informing the DCM and GSR members with useable and accurate information to**

### **share and inform their groups?**

GSR have to pick what information is important to take back to the group's the information is getting to us

#### **4. How effective is the area at making general service inclusive to home group members?**

The groups are only as informed as the GSR's a lot of groups aren't represented at area.

- Carry the message of AA and service between groups and gso

serve as link

- leadership responsible for health of the conference structure

#### **5. Has the Area utilized the 12 traditions in its service structure and the way it conducts business at committee meetings and assemblies?**

- We have ultimate authority shown by praying

- carrying the message is always our primary purpose

- area alternate chair staying in solution with lack of chairs today

- this panel is very tradition oriented

- each voice given opportunity

- area represents tradition at convention

- upside down triangle is in effect

- spirit of rotation for who host assemblies

- area doesn't have outside endorsements

- can we do a better job allowing people to see we aren't just political?

-squash misnomers also engage groups who do not have representative and general service

#### **6. Do our groups understand how our area uses their 7th tradition contribution, and does our members understand area's priority of spending?**

(13) yes (2) no,

Area priority of spending

a. delegate expenses for GSO conference

b. assembly

c. committee meetings

some groups do not understand or might not recollect

#### **7. Do contributions to area provide good services to the groups and district?**

What are the services?

- Some groups don't understand the splits some GSR as don't know what their specific split percentages are.

- personal responsibility to inform members

- some groups give more to area and district because we are remote so it cost more to travel

- workshops put on is a part of spending by area better inform the group members

- conventions are not a but able to maintain AA

#### **8. is the budget process and the work of the finance committee helping the area and informing our members adequately?**

- Keep priority of spending

- someone from finance committee will represent to any district or group in advance

- committee is made up of area treasure, alternate area chair and DCM's

#### **9. How well are our standing committee's fulfilling their purpose, can committees be more effective? How?**

- CEC doing great job reaching elderly alcoholics

- need to have good communication since we're all different islands

- creative ways to get into care homes difficult to find ways to reach them without being disrespectful

- have standing committee positions serve as representatives on districts to bridge the gap

#### **10. Was area effective in using the inventory of the last panel to improve the effectiveness of the present panel?**

- New GSR/DCM who haven't been in the specific panel yet meet with Kunane for recap is one thing we got from previous inventory

- everyone can know websites or ask

- being in general service is not a passive position Linda (past delegate)

#### **11. Has the voting process at area helped us in the ability to trust god and our group conscience? Do we report back with humility or with our shaded opinion?**

- One person could voice their opinion in opposition

- people have an opinion but don't always voice it because they get group think (secret ballot versus open ballot.)

- follow Robert's rules of order

#### **12. Do we have any additional suggestions or feedback to improve area in 2020?**

- Communication

- personal responsibility

- enthusiasm



## **The Best of Big Book Dave:**

### **February in Our History:**

**February, 1939:** 400 pre-publication copies of the Big Book in manuscript form are distributed for comments and suggestions before our book went to print. Today there are twelve originals known to exist.

**Feb. 8, 1940: The Rockefeller fund-raising** dinner at the Union Club in New York with Dr. Bob, Bill and six other A.A.'s in attendance.

**Feb 1940: Sister Victorien**, working with Sister Ignatia, was transferred to Cleveland and began admitting alcoholics at St. Vincent's Charity Hospital

**Feb. 13, 1940: The first recorded time** the "Lord's Prayer" was used to close an A.A. meeting, at the 'Philadelphia Group', Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**February 1943:** Newspaper *San Francisco Bulletin* interviews "Ricardo", a San Quentin Prison inmate and an active A.A. member who's group in San Quentin numbers over 100 members. Bill W. visited and spoke manytimes before this group.

**February 1946:** A documentary film which answered a lot of questions about A.A. is produced by our New York office. It's called: *The March of Time*.

**Feb. 1948: Father Ralph Pfau** founded the "Catholic Clergy Conf. on Alcoholism", which brought the A.A. message to priests suffering from alcoholism.

**February, 1949:** In Center City, Minnesota the Hazeldon Foundation Alcohol Treatment Center opens.

**Feb. 1959: Permission was asked** for and granted by G.S.O. for our literature to be put on tape for "Recordings for the Blind."

**Feb. 1990: Going to print** – the Ten Millionth copy of the Big Book.

**Submitted by Mathea A.**

# “But for the grace of God!”

## Spirit of Service in A.A.

To give back to the program that saved my life, so that it may continue to do so for others, is quite simply, gratitude in action.

My first meeting in A.A., I was given my first service commitment to wash ash trays! That service kept me coming back to that group every week for 6 months. I became the best damn ashtray washer in A.A.! After that, I was elected coffee maker. Probably THE most important job in the rooms. For 6 months, I arrived early, made the coffee, and got to know all the people a little more. I was able to see how they stayed sober. I then have been in the rooms for 1 year! When my 6-month commitment was up, they elected another person. I hung around and instructed the new person, how to make the coffee ‘properly’. I kept hovering over the person until my sponsor told me to stop stalking him! Oh, did I gain some humility over that. I did take on other service commitments that did keep me involved in A.A. Later on, after not being in service, not going to meetings, I drifted away from the program, only to go on a 9-year run. Fast forward to 2019, just reaching double digit sobriety, I was blessed to chair one of the holiday alkathons here on Maui! With almost 2 years living on Maui, it was a whole new growth experience. As I have learned by being involved in other events here, people really step up, get involved, and every event takes on a life of its own. I saw members, gratefully being of service, making sure there was a safe and sober place for people to go to over the holidays. To hear the gratitude in people’s voices for that, was another blessing that I received from being of service in A.A. To get to know others a little better, to hear their stories, and how they stay sober and enjoy sobriety, is one of the many rewards of service.

What I’ve learned from service, is to have trust and faith.

What I’ve gained from service is a little more humility and ego deflation. Also, I have more practice at making commitments and keeping them. What I receive from being in service is a little more insurance against taking that first drink, and a little self-respect. I try to

be active in all 3 sides of the triangle today,

Service, Unity, and Recovery, and I am blessed to do so. For that, I am grateful.

Dave S.

## *Concept IV*

*Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.*

# **PRAASA** (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) 2020 Tucson, Arizona



Aloha All!!!

First of all, I'd like to thank my homegroup, Kalihi Sobriety for giving me the greatest gift, by sending me to the 2020 PRAASA (Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) held in Tuscan, Arizona.

Our trip had a rocky start with one of the tickets being cancelled at the airport. After a few minutes of panic, we were able to pay for that ticket and be on our merry way. The flight was delayed by an hour to fix a blinking light on the door.



We were practicing this thing called “patience” with as much humility we could muster, and it wasn’t long then we were on our way. Upon arriving at LAX, we found that our connecting flight was also delayed by an hour for the same problem. God must really love us because we arrived safely. Thursday, I spent the day with our Delegate, the Pacific Trustee, the Area Chair, the Alternate Delegate and a few past Delegates, 14 of us in total. We went exploring through the mountains and prayed we wouldn’t be eaten by cougars or snakes or tarantulas. With all the signs posted, constantly reminding us that we were in a “wildlife area”, the chances of us even encountering one of them was very low because we were riding a tram.



Panel 2 “Carrying the message outside of AA  
Tradition 11 – Attraction rather than promotion

Is my AA sobriety attractive enough to recommend it to a non-member?

Tradition 11 ensures that it is not the hand of Gina but the hand of AA that reaches out. Be the best example that I can be.

Carrying our message to diverse populations

Remember that it is the people surrounding that alcoholic are the ones that help them the best.

Using the grapevine for PI/CPC and Beyond

1944 – the grapevine was used as a form of communication.

Our group should purchase a gift subscription of the grapevine to better serve our community in getting the message out.

How are we aligning media technologies with our traditions?

Sometimes the only form of communication {getting the message out} is through our smart phones and through social media.

I asked the question, “Do you have a suggestion on how to share the message on social media without breaking anonymity”. Answer – you can’t.

Panel 3 – 70<sup>TH</sup> GSC Conference Agenda Items

AAWS has a task force (4 people) assigned to make sure people are safe during events in regards to the Coronavirus. PRAASA is their first assignment to improve safety.

Revising the AA Preamble – Why?

Wanting to change the words from “men and women” to “people”.

Making the Big Book more accessible while preserving it’s message

Do you think there are accessibility issues with the big book? Do you think aa is ready to look at these actions? Do you think it’s possible for aa to find a common solution for the problem?

Modern language – requested revising the first 164

\*\* U.S. Trustee at Large Report – ALL ARE WELCOME \*\* Newton P.

(If attending the International Convention....)

GSO put out an announcement regarding the COVID19 (Coronavirus)

Instead of shaking hands, bump elbows. Avoid kissing and hugging as a greeting. Continuously wash hands and avoid touching your face. Have a hand sanitizer readily available (60% alcohol).

In Cuba, It takes them nearly a month just to get permission to leave the country to attend a World Conference. They would fly to 4 different countries before actually arriving. Same with Iran.

Your dollar that you donate at the meeting, goes partly to translation services.

Panel 4 – Carrying the message inside AA – Unity

Tradition 4 – The Group’s responsibility to connect to AA as a whole

non-Participation could hinder the alcoholic from getting the right information.

Expanding Our AA world through service

WE – the whole of alcoholics anonymous. How do we expand the WE....

Get into service.

Look for the Unity in service, regardless of how you may feel.

Intergroup participation in the General Service Structure

ICO (Intergroup Central Office)

ICO – frontline to AA. They don’t have a defined role in the service structure. Literature sales are what keep the doors open due to not enough donations from the groups.

At this time the ICO’s do not have a role in the GSO.

Many ISO’s have closed their door since GSO has opened online sales of literature. Most ISO’s rely on book sales to keep the doors open.

Diversity within groups vs. Diversity between groups

Within groups – business meetings will always have diversity. There will always be a new person demanding change and there will always be a gate-keeper to protect the tradition.

Between groups – each group is autonomous. We may not agree with what another group does... love them anyway.

\*\* Brazil was present at PRAASA – They have translated books available on Amazon. They will also be participating with GSO at the international level.

FRIDAY ROUNDTABLE

1. Anything to be helpful for a new GSR

- Read the service manual
- Get a service sponsor to go through the traditions/concepts
- New GSR kit
- “GSR survival packet” Look it up on google

2. How do we determine what is important to take back to our groups
  - Be sure you give your email so the district can email you the minutes
  - Usually they'll summarize what to take back
3. How do we convince other groups to get involved
  - Volunteer to be a GSR for that group
  - Have a workshop and personally invite those groups to the workshop by going to the meeting and making an announcement
4. Can the Alt. GSR attend district meetings
  - yes
5. Reimbursement of travel expenses
  - The group needs to agree to pay you back
6. Can you be a GSR for more than one group
  - No... A GSR should have only one vote but the ultimate decision is with the area
7. Should the GSR be an advisor to the treasurer
  - GSR is the keeper of the traditions. If the money is not being spent within the spirit of traditions, the GSR should advise the group why...
8. Subscription to the grapevine
  - Groups are more than welcome to participate in a subscription to help support the grapevine. Each group is autonomous.

Panel 7 – Trustee report Kathy F.

Grapevine will be available in Spanish audio starting at the international convention

Grapevine has a brand new website... works better on your phone don't forget about the meeting guide app. A free app for a list of meetings around the world, including Israel grapevine and la vina are working closely with AAWS by giving out literature listings with each book purchase.

YouTube channel has a lot of new stories and is a great tool to use while you're traveling. We watched a 1 minute clip of a partial story which was totally great! No pictures of the people are shown but pictures of waterfalls or something.

“Carry the Message” Project – you can buy a grapevine/la vina subscription and donate it to someone in prison who may have requested it.

Contributions are up due to online donations (8.9 million dollars)

Just as an FYI... AAWS has a pension set up for its employees which is now up to 98%

Currently have 100 employees serving millions of members

The international convention is on track with 47,000 registered members but with the current outbreak of the coronavirus, the numbers may not get as high as originally thought/hoped.

The big book is being translated into the Navajo language and will sell for the same price as an English big book.

AAWS is working on audio for 3 pamphlets which will be the gateway for other pamphlets.

Big book is in 71 translations including with the newest translation in sign language (ASL). Video will play and they can read lips or use sign language along with audio sound.

Closed her report with a reading from our great responsibility on page 161.



## Panel 8: Business Meeting

Went over last year's minutes, treasurer report, issues of the 2019 PRAASA with translations and properly hosting our Spanish speaking members – included guidelines written in are to provide proper translation equipment or translators also to include for the deaf.

### SATURDAY ROUNDTABLE

1. What literature should be used in a meeting
  - GSO does not disapprove of outside literature but does not suggest using them because of personal opinions
  - If a group decides to use non approved literature, it should be stated in the group format
2. New GSR's
  - Go to the orientation
  - Service manual... get familiar with it
3. How to present conference topics
  - Make it interesting, bribe them with coffee and donuts
  - Give them yes/no questions only
4. How to report back from assemblies
  - Report what you seen, heard and what you felt
5. How to get people involved as committee chairs

## Panel 9 - Evolution of Our Literatur to Serve Future Generations

Is it time for a 5<sup>th</sup> edition

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the BB was last printed in 2001

We should remain open minded

Gender Neutrality and our primary purpose

And alcoholic is alcoholic, regardless of the gender.

Gender neutrality would further promote our primary purpose.

Everyone should feel safe and welcome in a meeting

AA grapevine and Instagram – do we like it?

IG may not be a tool to attract newcomers but it may allow younger members to stay

4<sup>th</sup> edition of the BB (Spanish speaker)

The Spanish community would like to have a 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the big book



By: Gina B.

Aloha,

Thank you Maui No Ka Oi District 5 for sending me to the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (PRAASA) in Tucson March 6-8, 2020! I feel quite blessed to be able to serve in this capacity and greatly enjoy the time I get to spend with others serving Alcoholics Anonymous in General Service. I especially appreciate our Area 17 Ohana and am grateful for all of your continued service.

This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> PRAASA and in line with my past PRAASA experiences it opened my mind to new points of view on subjects that affect our Primary Purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Going in to this event I had certain ideas and beliefs based on my own experience. After being there a brief time, I get to hear the experiences of others in the Pacific Region that allow me to see and understand other perspectives.

I feel like most of the topics discussed were about keeping AA relevant in today's world in order to afford inclusivity to the widest spectrum of alcoholics. Relevance and inclusivity are my take-away words. While thinking about this I remember the audit that GSO had conducted by a third party on our practices a couple of years ago. The finding that stuck with me from that audit was the general public's opinion that (to paraphrase) "AA helps a lot of people but is an outdated Christian organization". I would like for us to be easily and warmly recommended to alcoholics by a wide variety of people and I am not certain that people with this viewpoint will suggest AA.

Some examples of topics discussed at PRAASA 2020:

- *How Are We Aligning Media Technologies With Our Traditions?*
- *Revising the A.A. Preamble – Why?*
- *Making The Big Book More Accessible While Preserving It's Message*
- *Updating The First 164 Pages - Pros & Cons*
- *A.A. Podcasts – Embracing Technology*
- *Is It Time for a Fifth Edition?*
- *Gender Neutrality and Our Primary Purpose*
- *AA. Grapevine and Instagram – Do We Like it?*

From these discussions I have come to believe that it would be wise of us as a group to become more flexible and come up with new ways to present our program of recovery to a wider group of people. Some examples of possibly underserved populations by the book Alcoholics Anonymous are: Women, Lesbians, Gay People, Transgender People, Non-English Speakers, Young People, "Loners & Internationals" (People that may not have access to another AA member or group), People that are incarcerated, People that English is their second language, People who may not have well developed reading skills, and anyone born after 1939.

Whether this is accomplished by creating new literature, revising current literature, or using different technologies to carry our message it will require our Fellowship to acknowledge shortcomings and agree on solutions. Change in Alcoholics Anonymous is an extremely slow process and I think that we need to begin consideration now.

Some common statements opposing change are: "I used our current program, it worked for me", "It is our duty as sponsors to explain our Big Book to the newcomer", "I don't want a watered-down version of AA", "If it ain't broke don't fix it", "It sounds like *they* think they are unique", and other rigid beliefs. I have had these same beliefs and still have some but I am afraid that if we do not make our message more accessible we are neglecting our responsibility to large

populations of alcoholics. I am also concerned that if we do not find ways to be more inclusive we will cease to be relevant, particularly to younger generations.

If we do decide to make any of these changes it will require resources. Alcoholics Anonymous has not been self-supporting for a long time. We rely on literature sales to make up the finances required to perform the duties that we as a fellowship have tasked our General Service Office with. I believe only around 40% of groups currently contribute to GSO. It was stated that if every AA member contributed just \$8 a year we could be self-supporting.

I heard that many Delegate Areas were in support of creating a 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Big Book at the 69<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference but GSO staff was burdened with other work that we as a fellowship have asked for. Because of this it would have been extremely challenging for them to devote the time necessary to facilitate a change as large as a new edition.

I don't see any easy answers for us nor am I totally comfortable with many of the changes that the proposed agenda items suggest but I believe we need to continue having these conversations within our Fellowship until we arrive at a solution. *"Our book is meant to be suggestive only. We realize we know only a little. God will constantly disclose more to you and to us"*. Big Book, page 164.

Area 17 DCM District 5  
Brandon,

Aloha,

I had such a great experience attending the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly as a West Hawaii District 8 representative. I enjoyed it so much and I am excited to share my experience with you. You can access my newsletter report back on our District 8 page of the West Hawaii Central Office website by clicking this link:

[https://www.westhawaiiiaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AA\\_CO\\_2020\\_03\\_PRAASARpt.pdf](https://www.westhawaiiiaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/AA_CO_2020_03_PRAASARpt.pdf)

Here are a few of the General Service Conference agenda items I covered in the newsletter:

- Request for a Big Book in Plain Language Translation.
- Request for a Fifth Edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous - change words like "he" or "she" to "they" or "them" to be more gender-neutral.
- Request to change the words in the Preamble from "We are a fellowship of men and women..." to "We are a fellowship of people..."
- Changes to the Pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix" - pie chart.

A few sidebar items include:

- PRAASA: What it was like.
- Round table discussions.
- Heartfelt voice of our Spanish speaking members.
- Quotes that I loved.

Participating in PRAASA was amazing and I hope my newsletter gives you a sense of what it was like!

In Love & Service,  
Jeannie G - DCM  
West Hawaii District 8

**MAUIFEST XVI** THE ALOHA SPIRIT IN ACTION  
THURS MAY 28 – SUN MAY 31, 2020  
AT THE ROYAL LAHAINA ON KAAPALI BEACH



Plan now for four days of fun, fellowship, circuit speakers, workshops, group activities and Maui's Aloha Spirit in Action!

AA and Al-Anon topic meetings, workshops and panels, great speakers, Hawaiian style entertainment Friday and Saturday evenings, Friday Dessert Pupus Social, Saturday Aloha Brunch (\$45) and Banquet Dinner (\$70). Take advantage of our world famous Kaanapali Beach location and enjoy fun group activities like volleyball, golf tournament, tennis, 5K run, an AA meeting floating in the ocean, and much more.

**REGISTER NOW & SAVE \$15!**  
**\$60 NOW THRU JANUARY 31ST**  
FEBRUARY 1ST – APRIL 30 \$70 | MAY 1ST – MAY 31ST \$75

ROOM RATES \$190/nt. garden view, \$220/nt. ocean view plus taxes | No night minimum | No resort fee | \$15/nt. overnight parking  
ROYAL LAHAINA RESORT 2780 Kekaa Drive, Lahaina, HI 96761 | Questions or issues with registration, please email [MauiFest@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:MauiFest@hawaii.rr.com)

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.MAUIFEST.ORG](http://WWW.MAUIFEST.ORG)**  
Follow online link to book hotel reservations with the convention discount.

Canceled events:



***The Big Island Bash for 2020 has been canceled.***

*Please refer to our website [www.bigislandbash.com](http://www.bigislandbash.com) for refund information and updates.*

***We sincerely thank you for your interest and support!***

Oahu Intergroup of HI Inc. Oahu Central Office  
1188 Bishop St. #3406 Honolulu, HI 96813  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Aloha all

Oahu Intergroup of Hawaii would like to extend our Aloha to the members and groups of Alcoholics Anonymous on Oahu. We are requesting that all members and groups adhere to the recommendations of the CDC and Government mandates.

If you are sick, please call your health care professional and engage in social distancing.

**Homegroup Day Update:** Unfortunately, as of this afternoon the City & County of Honolulu closed all Parks (no groups larger than 50 may gather), and as such we are unable to secure our permit for Homegroup Day | March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 | Ala Moana Regional Park at the Key Hole. We plan to reschedule this event once the City & County of Honolulu has lifted the current gathering restrictions. Please hang on to your tickets! We will be sure that everyone is advised of the new date and time once we have them established.

**Meeting Updates:** Several meeting locations are closing. We are working very hard to keep the [Oahu Central Office Website](#) updated with the most accurate information. Please check it regularly as we continue to gather additional information from reputable sources.

**Homegroup Updates:** Thank you for all who have advised us of your Groups' status. We will continue to be vigilant and update the [Oahu Central Office Website](#) as Groups inform us. If you would like to provide an update. Please call Oahu Central Office between 9am and 6p at (808)946- 1438 or email the Office Manager at [manager@oahucentraloffice.com](mailto:manager@oahucentraloffice.com). We ask that you please provide the following information:

Group Name:

The Time your group meets: Day your Group meets: Your Name:

Your Phone:

Your Email:

Length of closure:

**Central Office Update:** Oahu Central Office will be closed March 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> for the installation of the new flooring. We plan to resume business as usual on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 9:00 am.

If any member is in need of a meeting please consider stopping by the office to share coffee, fellowship and recovery. Thank you so very much for your continued support of Oahu Intergroup of Hawaii, Inc. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance.

Mahalo,  
Oahu Intergroup of Hawaii Inc.,  
Steering Committee.

Oahu Intergroup of HI Inc.  
Oahu Central Office  
1188 Bishop St. #3406  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Aloha all

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Mahalo,

Oahu Intergroup of Hawaii Inc., Steering Committee

The Waianae District #17 fellowship has definitely been affected by the recent shutdown of facilities and beach parks where normal meetings have been taken place. In spite of the crisis, individual members and groups have been making alternate arrangements to facilitate meetings. My home group for example has created a ZOOM online account so members and the like can participate in fellowship online. I heard another member opened her home as well. As the DCM for District #17, I have set up a ZOOM account to conduct district business and will probably set up ZOOM for my Big Book study as well. On a personal note, I have been doing regular check-ins with a group of men using Marco Polo even before the crisis. "Willingness needs to be indispensable" according to the Big Book. I'm sure that recovery efforts will continue in the light of this crisis. The spirit of the universe dwells deep in our hearts and change is always inevitable.

Bill M.

## 12 Traditions in my Daily Life

I don't know about any of you, but when I got to Alcoholics Anonymous I was separate, alone and apart from. I honestly had no idea how to form true partnerships with other human beings, nor did I care to. Was basically me against the world, or so I believed.

Then I ended up in AA and learned about WE, instead of ME. The first word of the first step in the program is WE. I got to work the 12 steps and to recover from a seeming hopeless state of mind and body, and then learn how to apply these steps in ALL my affairs.

I first became aware of the 12 Traditions being more than something being read during the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition collection when I became a GSR of my home group in 2000. They said that I was "the guardian of the traditions", of which I knew little about. I began my love affair with these principles, that were written for the groups to function and thrive. We studied the Traditions, discussed them during District meetings and at Area Assemblies, I attended PRAASA and Regional Forums.

Tradition workshops and studies.

My recovery was rocketed into a new dimension when I joined a Step, Tradition and Concept Study in 2004 and I was introduced to the idea of applying the principles of the Traditions and Concepts in all areas on my life: God & AA; Home and Relationships and Work and other talents.

If the Traditions are a set of principles that allow me to function as a member of a group (my home group), and I am nothing but a member of many groups in my life (AA, Work, Home, Church, my Neighborhood, the Gym, etc.,) then it followed that by applying these principles in all of these areas I could be an effective, successful and productive PARTICIPATING member of these groups.

White flash type Spiritual Awakening! I had not had success in groups my whole life, and now I have a set of principles, which, when I remember to apply in ALL areas of my life, will always have the best outcome for the group.

The principles of the Traditions have been described to me as: Unity, leadership, Membership, Autonomy; Primary Purpose; Non-Affiliation, Self-Support, Non-Professionalism, Spirit of Service, No opinion on Outside Issues, Attraction rather than Promotion and finally Principles before Personalities.

Without a WE there is no ME.

Love & Service,

Elizabeth M., Kalihi Sobriety

4/5/99 Sobriety Date

# Inform the Delegate

T S P N L G E E C A H J A J Y  
N E R A O B E C S C P G N V L  
V I E C Q I R N R N E R D I Q  
R R S N I I T A E N E E W P L  
M O E E L Y E A D R S S C M Q  
F G N S K S Q A M C A B U H D  
W E T I E V G B R R N L V U I  
F T A R E C K I Z Z O K Q H S  
L A T A C L P S I C W F P R C  
G C I X Z T W E I V E R N G U  
O C O I I C O N S I D E R I S  
M J N O S R E P R I A H C O S  
O J N C K D L S Z H T X R S X  
A O L Y V X R U W B J M U R R  
H G Z X H M P I F A X I P Z L

AGENDA  
CONSIDER  
GENERAL  
RESEARCH

CATEGORIES  
DESCRIPTION  
INFORMATION  
REVIEW

CHAIRPERSON  
DISCUSS  
PRESENTATION  
SENSE

