



Maui Serenity Gazette

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Maui Intergroup

August, 2011

TRADITION 8

**Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional,
but our service centers may employ special workers.**

A Real-Life Lesson

First, let me apologize for the lateness of this Gazette. The problem started more than a week ago when the printer was malfunctioning at Central Office and then circumstances kept changing what I wanted to say about Tradition 8.

My name is Rich and I am a "special worker". That doesn't mean that I'm special; it just means that I am paid to work at Central Office. As the Central Office manager, I am the only paid employee of Alcoholics Anonymous on Maui. I am paid \$1476 per month to work 20 hours per week. My take home pay is \$594 every two weeks. I also receive health insurance for which I am very grateful. I generally work more hours than I am paid for, which is fine by me.

The meaning of this Tradition is that we alcoholics should never charge money or seek payment for any 12th Step work we do. But our intergroup offices may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. We are not professional therapists, doctors or alcohol counselors. A.A. defines professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. We have only our experience as alcoholics and our experience of recovery in A.A. to pass on to others. Some conversation on the phone is a necessary part of the job I do since I am usually alone in the office when I'm working. And I'm always learning...

Recently a question has arisen as to the amount of contact this paid worker should have doing 12th Step work. Last week we received a call from a woman in distress. She was at the hospital emergency room. The volunteer who was working the phones early that morning called a woman on our 12th Step list who went and got the woman. Among other things, she took the woman home with her and the woman stayed there that night. The next day the woman from the 12 Step list called Central Office to see if she could drop the woman off at the office for 2-3 hours because she had some work to do. She wanted the woman to have a safe place to hang out. I agreed, thinking the woman would just be sitting on the couch reading a book or something. She dropped the woman off and I chatted with her as I did my work. I asked her to fold some schedules which she did but she also went to the corner store and may have gotten some alcohol. She came back with a Gator Aid bottle with a blue substance in it. I smelled it and it smelled weird but not like alcohol. I thought later that it might have been mouth wash. After that I had to spend some time talking with her because she wanted to leave before our member got back. I told her she was free to leave but that I thought it was a bad idea. She lives on Oahu and had a ticket back for the next day.

Some members say that I should not have allowed her to stay because I am being paid and shouldn't be doing 12th Step work while being paid. I sought advice on the matter afterward and was told that I should not have allowed her to come to the office because there are other places she could have gone and that is why we have a 12th Step list.

Also, part of that advice was that I should not engage in long 12th Step phone conversations with alcoholics, even when they say they want to talk to me, not someone else. I am told that I should politely tell the caller that I need to get someone on the 12th step list to talk to them. I am being told that I am not being paid to do these things. I am learning...

"More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy denying them." - Harold J. Smith ~

I thought it was part of my job to do those things but, (Continued on Page 2)

Third Annual

**BILL'S
DINE &
DANCE**

Saturday, August 27th
Maui Tropical Plantation



if I am violating the 8th Tradition, **I surely do not want to do that** so I will try to learn from the discussion. Once in a while, someone walks in the door for their 1st contact with A.A., usually looking like a deer caught in the headlights. Am I supposed to talk to them for a few minutes, then politely shoo them out the door and tell them I will have someone call them? Or can I talk to them for a half hour or an hour and, then, when they are feeling stronger, shoo them out the door and tell them someone will call them? I'm not sure where to draw the line because I'm being told that I am violating Tradition 8 if I talk to them for more than a few minutes. The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions has this to say:

"... A plain line of cleavage could be seen between professionalism and nonprofessionalism. When we agreed that the Twelfth Step couldn't be sold for money, we had been wise. But when we declared that our fellowship couldn't hire service workers nor could any A.A. member carry our message into other fields, we were taking the counsel of fear, fear which today has been largely dispelled in the light of experience."

"At the... intergroup offices, we couldn't employ nonalcoholics as secretaries; we had to have people who knew the A.A. pitch. But the minute we hired them, the ultraconservative and fearful ones shrieked, 'Professionalism!'"

..."Then we saw that if a hardworking secretary answered the phone dozens of times a day, listened to twenty wailing wives, arranged hospitalization and got sponsorship for ten newcomers, and was gently diplomatic with the irate drunk who complained about the job she was doing and how she was overpaid, then such a person could surely not be called a professional A.A. She was not professionalizing the Twelfth Step; she was just making it possible. She was helping to give the man coming in the door the break he ought to have."

MY OPINION: I also hear that I have inappropriately expressed my opinions in the Serenity Gazette. No one has pointed out which article they are referring to so I cannot respond to that. I am sure that I have written articles on the Steps and Traditions (because many times nobody else sends in articles in spite of my requests for submissions) and, in those articles, I wrote about how *I* do that Step. I can't write about how *you* do that Step. I have also written many articles on my experience with "Emotional Sobriety". I don't see how that would be an *inappropriate* expression of my opinion. Maybe the ones complaining can give more specific examples. They will be printed in the Gazette if you want.

Some may say that I am expressing my opinions in this article but I believe that all I have done is pass on my experience strength and hope regarding this Tradition. It is my hope that readers get as much out of these real life, local examples than they do from a reprinted Grapevine article, although many of those are outstanding and I love them too. I also hope that this issue opens your eyes about issues here in Maui Intergroup that you may not be aware of.

MONEY ISSUES

There is also a very justifiable concern that Maui Intergroup cannot afford to have a Central Office manager because group contributions are down quite a bit, mostly due to the recession (<- my opinion). There is some talk of eliminating the position and having the work done by volunteers **for free**. If you know anyone who is willing to do it for free, please have them call Central Office and we can take the idea to the next Intergroup Meeting. Before that, you should probably know what the job entails. Here is the job description:

Maui Intergroup – Central Office Manager **Duties and Responsibilities**

OFFICE

Position requires 20 hours per week

Responsible for Central Office to be open 40 hours per week.

Recruit, train and supervise volunteer staff in handling of all telephone duties, retail sales and contribution activities.

Recruit and train a temporary manager from among experienced volunteers to cover manager's vacations and sick leave.

Coordinate Central Office for business meetings of Intergroup Committees who want the use of the Central Office for their meetings. i.e.: Central Office Bash, Golf Tourney, Alkathons, etc.

Take responsibility for the maintenance, security and cleanliness of Central Office.

Keep current fliers and any AA information displayed. Remove information and fliers when over or a reasonable length of time has been given for people to read and respond.

Operate the Central Office in the spirit of the Twelve Traditions and according to AA Guidelines. (Continued on Page 3)

Working with Maui Intergroup Steering Committee

- Advise the Intergroup Chair of any important matters requiring action or decisions as soon as possible.
- Work with the Intergroup Chair to set the agenda for the monthly Maui Intergroup meeting.
- Serve as a voting member of the Intergroup Steering Committee and attend the monthly Intergroup meeting as a voting member and to give reports on Central Office activities.
- Arrange locations and dates for all Intergroup functions in coordination with the Steering Committee and serve as Event Coordinator to help Event Chairpersons with coffee pots and other supplies that are kept at Central Office.

Coordinate "Twelfth Step" calls

- Keep phone lines open 24 hours per day and work with Phone Coordinator for forwarding calls to AA members at their home on off-hours.
- Keep 12 Step Phone lists current.
- Receive and process all calls for help or inquiries concerning AA on Maui. Direct Twelfth Step calls to people on the Twelfth Step list.

Meeting Directories

- Track changes in meeting schedules
- Answer questions about meeting changes
- Get updated meeting directories printed in a timely and cost efficient manner.
- Keep meeting directories current and available to meetings.

The Serenity Gazette

- Responsible for the development and publishing of the monthly Serenity Gazette.
- Encourage a wide range of stories and event announcements.
- Review final publication, prior to printing, with a minimum, 2-person review committee.

Literature inventory and sales distribution

- Order literature regularly and in a timely manner.
- Coordinate ordering to acquire best prices.
- Take physical inventory at close of every month.

Outreach and Fundraising Activities

- Manage and support the yearly events coordinated through Maui Intergroup, such as: Central Office Bash, Alkathons, Founder's Day, 4th of July Picnic, etc.
- Oversee any fundraising activities, i.e.: picnics, breakfasts, raffles, etc.
- Be open to new ideas to help fund the Central Office operation and bring these ideas to the Intergroup Steering Committee for consideration.
- Make arrangements, dates and locations at the beginning of the year for annual events and present them to the Steering Committee for review and approval from Maui Intergroup.

Data Processing Skills

- Utilize computer database, word processing, spreadsheets and desktop publishing.
- Back up computer on a weekly basis.

Public Information

- Work in cooperation with Public Information and CPC committees on Maui.
- Maintain ad in the Maui News for Information about Help for Drinking Problems.
- Select and distribute PSA (free) radio spots to the local radio stations on a continuous basis.
- Be a liaison to the public at large and handle request for assistance from the following committees: Public Information, Hospitals, Treatment Facilities, Corrections, and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) in matters concerning the alcoholics.
- Be a liaison for contact and transfer of information between the above parties and Groups in the Intergroup family including the Districts.

Accounting and Bookkeeping: Experience Necessary

- Responsible for recording cash sales and contributions to Central Office.
- Provide for a Post Office Box to receive incoming mail. Open incoming mail and send outgoing mail.
- Keep office supplies on hand and see that all office equipment is in working order including computer, printer, copy machine and phones.
- Reconcile cash sales and store money safely daily.
- Record daily sales in accounting program and reconcile with deposit.
- Maintain separate receipt books for contributions, literature sales and prudent reserve.
- Prepare bank deposits and bank as needed.
- Reconcile Bank accounts monthly and submit report to Intergroup Treasurer.
- Generate Balance Sheets and Income Statements monthly and have Treasurer review for submission into the Serenity Gazette and review at monthly Maui Intergroup Meeting.
- Books close each month on the last day of each month and reports are due for publication in the Serenity Gazette and the monthly Maui Intergroup Meeting on the 2nd Saturday of each month.
- Submit the annual Intergroup Income Tax Report for Non Profit Organizations (Form 990) or provide a CPA with the necessary data to submit the report.
- Pay Accounts Payable liabilities on a current basis. All checks require 2 signatures. Normally one signature will be the Central Office Manager and the other signature will be either the Treasurer or the Intergroup Chair.

* Other temporary responsibilities may be given on a situational basis but will be provided in writing and approved by the Maui Intergroup Chairperson.

CONTRIBUTING GROUPS	July	2011 YTD
3rd Step Turn It Over		\$195.00
Alana Ohana	\$475.00	\$1,390.00
Anonymous Contributions	\$270.00	\$966.00
Back To Basics		\$81.00
Club 449		\$251.40
Dawn Patrol		\$162.50
District 13 Business meeting		\$31.00
Food For Thought		\$238.71
Fri Nite Young People Kihei	\$100.00	\$200.00
Friday Gay & Lesbian		\$24.18
Haiku Hang Loose Group		\$212.50
Happy Hour	\$360.00	\$2,059.65
HICYPAA		\$232.63
High In The Sky - Kula		\$450.28
Imi Loa Searcher Group	\$10.50	\$10.50
Intergroup - Monthly Meeting	\$20.00	\$143.91
Just Do It	\$15.75	\$64.50
Kahana Spinners		\$300.00
Kihei Beach		\$170.77
Lahaina Big Book Study		\$354.65
Lahaina Study Group	\$143.75	\$233.75
Lahaina Whalers	\$150.00	\$150.00
Maui Sunset	\$167.00	\$1,450.52
Kihei Women's Step Study		\$200.00
Monday Night Women's Mtg	\$3.00	\$3.00
No Ka Oi Group		\$50.00
Over the Rainbow		\$66.00
Paki Maui Group	\$200.00	\$700.00
Paniolo Group		\$100.00
Pau Hana (Kahului)		\$98.50
Primary Purpose		\$2,600.00
Sisters Of Sobriety		\$50.00
Sober And Crazy	\$150.00	\$735.93
Step Sisters		\$22.38
Steps To Freedom	\$11.00	\$11.00
Sunday Sunset Feelings	\$19.15	\$113.10
To Thine Own Self Be True	\$80.00	\$471.40
Upcountry Sunrise		\$46.14
Upcountry Sunset		\$60.00
Wailuku Group		\$10.35
We Agnostics	\$77.23	\$502.23
Womens AA Way of Life	\$17.00	\$58.88
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$2,269.38	\$15,272.36
2010 Totals	\$1,701.10	\$17,672.81
2009 Totals	\$3,121.20	\$16,400.96
2008 Totals	\$1,912.73	\$14,895.67
2007 Totals	\$1,991.85	\$15,517.92
Average - Last 4 years	\$2,181.72	\$16,121.84

INCOME REPORT: July, 2011		
DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
Total Group Contributions:		\$2,269.38
This year 41 Groups have contributed		
This Month 18 Groups Contributed		
Withdrawal from Prudent Reserve		\$1,000.00
20% Literature Split		\$145.94
Dine & Dance ticket sales		\$460.00
Literature Starting Balance	\$463.47	
Sales / Deposit	\$479.70	
Expenses	\$659.74	
Closing Balance	\$283.43	
Operating Account		
Beginning Balance	-\$1.48	
Income / Deposit	\$3,875.32	
Expenses	\$2,298.21	
Total Operating account	\$1,575.63	
Prudent Reserve	\$6,588.09	
TOTAL INCOME:		\$3,875.32
2010 YEAR TO DATE INCOME:		\$23,670.30

EXPENSE REPORT: July, 2011		
DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT
Haran Development (rent)		\$525.00
Kilakila		\$1,058.51
Kilakila		\$1,055.81
U.S. Treasury (payroll tax)		\$38.78
Hawaiian Telcom		\$145.11
TOTAL EXPENSES:		\$2,298.21
2010 YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES:		\$22,725.50
YTD NET INCOME		\$944.80

Thank you for your generous contributions. Without your financial support Central Office cannot exist to serve A.A. members on Maui.

Central Office Report

- Books sold: 41, Pamphlets sold: 242.
- Ongoing conversation with IRS regarding penalties for past years when Intergroup didn't file a tax return. They are currently assessing us over \$7000 for those penalties. I am requesting they abate the penalties because it is a great hardship for us to pay them. This conversation has been going on for 2-3 years now and may be over soon. I am no longer real hopeful.
- We used \$1000 from Prudent reserve early in the month because we had no money on hand.
- Revamping phone call tally procedures.

MINUTES
MAUI INTERGROUP MEETING
July 9, 2011

Kawika opened meeting at 6:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer and Preamble , followed by introductions. There were 17 Intergroup representatives and 2 visiting members in attendance.

Jean Mc. volunteered to record the minutes of the meeting.

Minutes from last month were reviewed and accepted.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Kavika stated that he believes it is really important to communicate with the Fellowship regarding the state of our finances. Felt it is crucial to let the groups know how important it is to send in contributions on a regular basis because our bills are due on a regular basis.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Bill D. gave the report, said we are running a deficit almost every month. The prudent reserve stands at about \$6500 after withdrawing \$1000 to pay bills. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and passed.

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT

One more volunteer is needed for Central Office.

We will be receiving \$3,000.00 from the estate of an O'ahu man.

All events have been finalized except the location of the New years Alkathon.

We have a new Phone Coordinator, Susanna, from Upcountry.

We really need members to submit articles for the Serenity Gazette.

We really need to sell a lot more tickets for Bill's Dine & Dance because we need to make a 50% deposit for the venue soon.

OLD BUSINESS

We are still looking for Secretary for Intergroup. We also want to hear any ideas from the fellowship for fixing the finances of Intergroup.

DISTRICT / AREA / DISTRICT SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS

There will be a Crossing to Moloka'i in September.

Kihei District is sponsoring a CPC Workshop at St. Theresa Church.

No Ka Oi District still needs a Co-chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Take back to the Groups:

Location for 2012 Central Office Bash

Ideas for increasing contributions

Volunteer needed for Central Office

Adjourned at 7:05.

Next Intergroup Meeting is on September 10, 2011

2011 Intergroup Sponsored Events		
<u><i>Date</i></u>	<u><i>Event</i></u>	<u><i>Group Hosting Event</i></u>
Oct 16	Gratitude Night Pukalani/Tavares Com. Ctr Dinner & Speakers 5:30-9 pm	Upcountry Sunrise
Nov 23 & 24 Wed & Thur	Thanksgiving Alcathon Cameron Center November 23, 2:00 p.m. to November 24, 4:00 p.m. Dinner 1pm on Thurs., Nov 24	Happy Hour
Dec 24 & 25 Sat & Sun	Christmas Alcathon Cameron Center December 24 at 2pm to Dec. 25 at 4:00 p.m. Dinner at 1 pm on 12/25	Kihei Morning Serenity
Dec 31, Jan 1 Sat & Sun	New Year's Alcathon Camp Olowalu December 31 at 2pm to 1/1/2012 at 4:00 p.m. Dinner at 1pm on 1/1/2012	Friday Night Young People

Interview: A Doctor Speaks

George E. Vaillant, M.D., joined AA's General Service Board as a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee in 1998. He is professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, director of the Study of Adult Development, Harvard University Health Services, and director of research in the Division of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital. The author of *The Natural History of Alcoholism Revisited*, a comprehensive study of alcoholism, George lectures widely on alcoholism and addiction and is one of the foremost researchers in the field.

Grapevine: In an article about alcoholism in *Harvard Magazine*, you were quoted as saying that 50 percent of the people brought into emergency rooms with fractures are there as a result of alcohol, but that blood-alcohol levels are never checked. It made me curious about the way medical professionals view alcoholism today. Can you tell us something about that?

George Vaillant: What happens in emergency rooms is actually much more dramatic than that. Probably 50 percent of all the people brought into emergency rooms had blood-alcohol levels over .25 - which is enough to make any nondependent person comatose, not just prone to accidents. And even though this is a clear biochemical fact staring doctors in the face, no referral is made - nothing is done about it - because when it comes to treating alcoholism, the medical profession feels so helpless, so without hope. And for a doctor, feeling powerless is reason enough to put his head in the sand.

Grapevine: Why do you think that feeling persists?

George Vaillant: You have to remember that very few doctors have ever seen a recovered alcoholic. If you're recovered, you don't have any reason to tell your doctor you're an alcoholic. And if you're not recovered, you go back to see him a hundred times, so you're forever etched in his memory. Consequently, doctors overcount the failures and have no knowledge of the successes. They don't understand that 40 percent of all recovery has probably occurred through Alcoholics Anonymous.

Grapevine: What could be done to change that?

George Vaillant: The two simplest ways that I know are both within the power of the Fellowship. One is to take your doctor to open meetings so he or she can see for themselves these well-dressed people in nice suits who look like anybody else and have been in recovery for years. It was terribly important for me to get inside of open meetings and see sober alcoholics for myself because they're terribly inspiring.

The second is to twelfth-step your doctor - not to teach him about alcohol or Alcoholics Anonymous, but to give him a list of names that motivated patients could call. Doctors aren't experienced enough in their practices to find recovering alcoholics, so recovering alcoholics must either say "I will talk with patients," or give doctors referrals. What medical professionals need is a list of referral sources, clearly typed, and some success using those referrals, so they have hope rather than hopelessness.

Grapevine: How did you, a nonalcoholic, get to know AA?

George Vaillant: I was working for an alcohol clinic where it was a condition of employment. I had to go to a meeting a month. In addition, half the staff were recovering alcoholics, and they were the first people whom I'd met at Harvard in ten years who knew anything about the disease.

Grapevine: Is there any movement afoot to establish that kind of requirement for medical students today?

George Vaillant: For the last ten years, medical students in many medical schools have been required to go to one or two AA meetings, due in large part to the activity of AA's CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) committee. But the problem is that in your first two meetings, there's so much going on that you don't always get the feeling of, "My God, these people are recovering." It's more about learning what a terrible disease alcoholism is and not about realizing that the people in the meeting are the same people you see in your emergency room with the fractures.

What people are only slowly learning is that you can teach medical students anything that's noble and good about people and they get it right on the exam. But where medical students learn how to be doctors is on the hospital wards and in the emergency rooms, where they're working with residents. And interns, for very good reasons, hate active alcoholics with a passion. Therefore, the educational program has to begin again after residency. And that really is something patients can do for their doctors - not by teaching them about AA, but by telling their stories and offering whatever suits them of the Twelve Steps. And, as I said, by giving them a number to call when the roof is falling in.

Grapevine: You said about 40 percent of the people who remain abstinent do it through AA. What about the other 60 percent? Could we in AA be more open, more supportive of these?

George Vaillant: Yes. You know, if you're batting 400, it's all right to miss a few. I think the fact that AA knows the answer to an extremely complicated problem is probably all right.

But it doesn't hurt at the level of GSO for AA to have humility and understand that 60 percent do it without AA. It's also true that most of those 60 percent do it with the AA toolbox: their spirituality doesn't come from AA; their support group doesn't come from AA; and what I call "substitute dependency" doesn't come from AA. But they still use the same ingredients that AA uses. (Continued on next page)

And I don't think there's anything that the other 60 percent are doing that AA needs to learn from, except: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." If you meet someone who has stayed sober for more than three years and they're pleased and boasting that they did it without AA, thank your Higher Power for another recovery. You know, there's "little" sobriety, being dry, and there's sobriety with a big S, which includes humility and not thinking that you're the center of the earth. So if someone is doing something without your help, good enough.

Grapevine: What have you discovered about AA since becoming a trustee? Or as you put it, what if anything has made you say, "Aha!"

George Vaillant: I'd never seen the General Service Manual before, and to me as a nonalcoholic, it is a great piece of world literature, like the American Constitution. It is a great contribution to human thought.

I've also learned something about spirituality. Every time there is a board weekend, I arrive thinking, "Oh my God, this is another weekend I'm not with my family." Then I spend the next two days bathed in love and acceptance that is not from my being anyone special. So I've learned another definition of spirituality: we are each like the beautiful wave that's about to crash on the beach, saying, "This is it. This is forever." Then a voice from behind says, "Don't worry, son. You're not a wave; you're part of the ocean."

Grapevine: There is still a great deal of debate about the role of addicts in AA. What are your views on that?

George Vaillant: This is a terribly important question. AAs should focus on alcoholism. They're right. They've got enough to do, and there are enough alcoholics to go around in the world that they should never fear for their primary purpose.

But because there are a lot of people with mixed addictions, it's important for individual groups that can tolerate them to be tolerant and inclusive. There are some groups that welcome white, middle-aged Protestant males. And that's okay; they should be there, even though the rest of AA may regard them as hopeless dinosaurs and politically incorrect. And there are other groups that tolerate people who spend a little bit too much time talking about their \$5-million cocaine habit and not enough time talking about alcoholism. And that's the wave of the future. There are increasingly fewer alcoholics. So some groups are going to have to change.

Grapevine: What are some of the other challenges that AA faces?

George Vaillant: I think there are two, really. One is to come to some meaningful terms with the individuals who are frightened that AA is a religion. This will involve some work and growth in AA to incorporate its diversity without losing its traditions. This is in keeping with the question of keeping the first 164 pages that Bill W. wrote in the Big Book and at the same time including contemporary stories about things some groups might be horrified by.

The second challenge (and this may be more important to me as a class A trustee) is to convey to the world what an extraordinary organization Alcoholics Anonymous is - not only in its ability to cure alcoholism but in its ability to conceptualize the fact that we're all one planet.

Just as an example, groups that are supposed to know about human beings and to be peaceful - the Christian church, the psychoanalytic movement, and the peace movement - are constantly splintering and fighting with each other. And somehow for sixty years, AA has kept two million very diverse individuals, who in their past lives were often a lot less peaceful than the Christians, the psychoanalysts, and the advocates of peace, working together for a common good.

I'm not sure that's a challenge to the Fellowship, or necessary to keep people sober. It's simply to me a challenge that people appreciate the depth of this message, which is expressed more in the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts than in the Twelve Steps.

Grapevine: When you spoke of religious skeptics or of those fearful that AA might have a religious agenda, were you thinking of professionals in the field of alcoholism, or alcoholics themselves?

George Vaillant: Oh, both. Alcoholics, because of the shame, are enormously sensitive to exclusion. So to say, "If you want what we have, you have to believe in a Higher Power; you have to be spiritual, or you have to fake it till you make it" is enormously threatening to some people. They're still at a point of self-absorption; the idea of depending on a power greater than themselves is something they're going to have to learn. Think of it this way: there are a lot of things parents believe, like the value of working hard and completing an education, that make no sense to an eighteen-year-old. And for some alcoholics, spirituality is like one of those things that you learn when you get older. AA has to constantly remind itself that it needs to meet people where they are and that it can only make loving suggestions.

Bill W. spells out very clearly that Alcoholics Anonymous is not a religion. And he makes it clear that there should be nothing about AA that excludes anyone who's a suffering alcoholic. But how you get people who've grown up in one tradition to understand how the world looks to people who've grown up in another takes ongoing discussion. Universality is very hard to achieve. And AA, in its effort of world unity, is constantly having to evolve. It's not a question of changing. It's a process of growth.

Here's my story getting home from San Diego on a buddy pass.

I was bumped off the plane the first day. I actually was all the way down the jet way with a seat assignment in hand walking on to the plane and the late passenger showed up. One flight a day I was to try again Friday. I saw a Hawaiian plane and thought I would try to use my miles getting back to Maui since Alaska didn't work out. While walking over I called the Sheraton where I just had checked out of to see if I could check back. I was transferred to a guy in India that told me the Sheraton was booked solid. Wow, strike two. No plane ride and no hotel to go back to. I was hoping Hawaiian was going to pan out. Well.... Got to Hawaiian and couldn't use my miles it was too early Hawaiian time to issue me a miles ticket. The office wasn't opened in Honolulu yet. I inquired about buying a one way and it was \$900.00, not an option for me that day. I was stuck or so it felt like it. At this point I'm feeling like I don't know what to do. I did something I learned in AA. When stuck, stop and get quiet and listen for direction. I went to a private phone booth, sat down and had a conversation with God and asked him what I should do. I'd been denied two planes and the Sheraton reservations guy (from India) told me no room at the hotel I just checked out of. I sat quietly in the phone booth until the answer came. I went back outside got on the Sheraton shuttle, walked back in the hotel lobby and asked for my room back. It was only 7:30 in the morning and I knew it hadn't been serviced yet. I lucked out! I got back in the room and with my conference rate of \$119.00.

Now, I have a whole day in front of me and I'm thinking a meeting is definitely a good idea! I rented a car which apparently was one of the last ones in the city. I knew which meeting I wanted to find and so I headed over the bridge to the Coronado Alano Club. I had a GPS and San Diego central office on the phone and it was still hard to find. It was in an alley and after asking several people where the club was, the toothless lady with bright the red lipstick directed my way.

Whew! Walking through the door, sitting down, looking at the Steps and Traditions on the wall with people speaking my language... I was so happy and relieved! The topic was "Is sobriety enough?". Fitting for this day. No, it's not enough "just" sobriety. Sometimes you have to go to any lengths to get a to meeting to stay sober one more day.

I turned the car back in and it cost me \$109.00. I thought "well, yes, I am willing to go to any lengths to get to a meeting." This meeting just cost me a \$109.00 and was worth it! It brought me serenity, (once I found it,) and another day of sobriety.

In the morning I caught the shuttle back over to the airport and the flight crew was on the shuttle. They asked me if I was flying to Maui with them and I said yes and told them I was on a buddy pass via my friend. I got on the plane, whew! The seat I was given was towards the back and I was surrounded by kids. The one behind me had already started kicking my seat back. Ugh, this was going to be a long flight.

While taxing one of the flight attendants came up to me and said my First Class upgrade was available after the seat belt sign was turned off. Yeah!! As soon as the seat belt light went off I went up to 3D. What a treat! I was in first class and not in the back of the plane with a kid kicking my seat back. I was saying "thank you, thank you!!"

So...there was my adventure getting home. It was eventful and I used tools I have learned in AA to get through the hump section of my 24 hours, that is the cool part.

I landed at Kahului, was picked up by my Sponsee and we headed straight to our home group at Wahikuli Beach Park for our 12:00 meeting.

I'm grateful for the tools I have today that I can learn here in AA and then go out and use them in the big world. It works if you work it!

Aloha, Anita W., Lahaina



Photo by Anita W.

2nd Annual CAN DO MAUI NORTH SHORE MEN'S RETREAT

September 16, 17, 18, 2011

Keanae YMCA

Join us for a weekend of recovery, fellowship and fun.

Pre-Registration (before August 15) - \$80

Registration (after August 15) - \$95

Registration includes accommodations, hot water, five meals cooked by Chef John C, workshops and entertainment. Scholarships are available. For questions or more information, please contact:

Matt O. (808) 344-0253

Or

Daniel B. (808) 283-6475

Focus Groups and Workshops Include:

Steps 1, 2 and 3 – Juan S.

Inventory – Jotham F.

Meditation – David D.

Service – Ed J.

Joys of Recovery – Bob R.

Sponsorship – Barry P.

Emotional Sobriety – Henry R.

Please cut or tear bottom portion and return to the address below

REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I can give a ride: _____ Seats Available: _____ I will need a ride from _____

Registration: \$ _____ Donation for Scholarships: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail Registration and Payment To:

CDM North Shore Retreat

PO Box 791201

Paia, HI 96779

Suggested Items to Bring:

Bedding: you must provide your own bedding, sleeping bags, pillows, sheets, blankets, etc. Twin bunk beds are provided, but no linens or pillows are available at the camp

Big Book

12 & 12

Bath Towel

Flashlight

Tent if wanted

Beach Towel

Sunscreen

Swimsuit

Raincoat

Sweater

Jacket


Chair for campfire

Toiletries

Driving Directions:

1. Begin driving on Hana Highway headed toward Paia and Hana
2. At mile marker 14, the mile markers reset to 0, continue on Hana Highway until you pass the second mile marker 14, YMCA Camp Keanae will be on the left hand side of the road.
3. If you pass the Keanae Arboretum on the right, you have gone too far.

For map and more information on the camp, please visit www.mauiymca.org

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Molokai Sweetbread French toast Portuguese sausage, fresh fruit	Chocolate chip and Banana pancakes with real maple syrup & little smokies
	Thai Chicken or vegetable curry Jasmine rice. John's green papaya salad	
Italian sausage or veggie lasagna, Bruschetta w/ tomato and basil Caesar salad. Tollhouse chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate	Tacos, burritos w/ salsa bar. Home- made refried beans and Spanish Rice. Smores and a bonfire	

MEETING CHANGES

We Agnostics will now meet under the big Shower tree on the lawn by the Kihei Bridge Center on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 A.M. The Wednesday meeting will be at Keolahou Church as usual.

SUNDAY,
August 28th
Hana Caravan
Meet at **Wananalua Church in Hana**
POTLUCK DINNER
at 4:30pm
A.A. Meeting
at 5:30pm - 7pm
A Service Function of
No Ka Oi District 5

Hicypaa is right around the corner and we need help spreading the word! The dates are **October 7, 8, & 9** and the cost for all food and lodging is only \$50. The conference is on Oahu this year and should be lots of fun! See you there and please help us spread the word to all the islands. www.hicypaa.us

FIESTA DE GRATITUDE
(Gratitude Night)

OCTOBER 16, 2011

5:30pm - 9:00pm

PUKALANI COMMUNITY CENTER

Dinner at 6:00pm

WHAT TO BRING:
SIDE DISHES WITH A MEXICAN THEME & DESSERTS.

2 Fabulous Speakers!

PINATA hitting raffle @ 7:30 just before speakers



Sponsored by Maui Intergroup
Hosted by Upcountry Sunrise Group

For more information, contact
Central Office at: 244-9673

**Contact A.A. on Maui
Central Office**

70 Central Ave., Suite 1,
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793
808-244-9673

Phones are answered 24 hours

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday thru Friday: 9am-5pm

Meeting schedule online:

www.aamaui.org

Email: info@aamaui.org

**Contact Maui Serenity Gazette
808-244-9673**

PO Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793

The Maui Serenity Gazette is published monthly in electronic format in an effort to keep costs down.. We also print a number of copies for those without computers. See your Intergroup Rep for a free copy. To register for FREE email delivery, send your email address to: info@aamaui.org. The Gazette is also online at: <http://aamaui.org/gazette.html>.

You can contribute articles on any A.A. subject. Anything you wish to submit should be received by the end of each month to be included the next month. Full Submission Guidelines are also on the website listed above.

Articles are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or the Maui Serenity Gazette. Please submit any criticism or suggestions without hesitation.

All Other Islands

Oahu AA (808) 946-1438
www.OahuCentralOffice.com

Kaua'i AA (808) 245-6677
www.hconv.org/kauai/kauaiaa

Moloka'i & Lana'i AA
(808) 244-9673
www.aamaui.org

West Hawai'i (Big Island, Kona)
(808) 329-1212

<http://www.westhawaiiiaa.org/>

East Hawai'i (Hilo & Puna)
(808) 961-6133

Keep Coming Back!