



Maui Serenity Gazette

Email info@aamaui.org to receive by email. Get meeting schedule & more at www.aamaui.org

Maui Intergroup

February, 2010

Tri Island District Is Alive and Well

On January 20th Tri Island District held their first committee meeting of the year. In attendance were 14 members from West Maui, including the Intergroup co-chair, Jean. Thank you, Jean, for making the trip. We have a full set of officers, 6 GSRs, a corrections representative (I don't quite know what to call that position yet), and a Remote Communities (the Crossing) chair. I think the rest of the members were there just to keep an eye on me. We have begun dialogue with Kihei and No Ka Oi districts about the possibility of standing committees to serve our shared community. These committees might serve the entire county for hospital, jail, PI and Remote Communities (The Crossing) work. Also, there was concern from members in West Maui about the wording 'certify' regarding signatures on court cards. The bulletin from GSO's CPC Committee is being circulated at meetings which includes the wording 'non-binding' regarding those signatures as well as reminders about what AA does and doesn't do. An effort will be made to get that bulletin to the courts and other referring professionals when a CPC committee is formed. A Remote Communities Committee has been formed out of members from Tri Island, Kihei, and No Ka Oi district members. The goal will be one trip to Lana'i and Molo-ka'i each year. The next Crossing in the rotation is to Lana'i. I regret we have not visited or been in contact with members there for too long. A member from Moloka'i reports that their fellowship continues to be close-knit and strong. Their membership is composed of about 20 'core AAs' and about 25 court ordered attendees on an average. The last Crossing to Moloka'i was in May 2010 with about 35 members going and was cosponsored by the 2010 HICYPAA host committee. I was reminded that visitors are always most welcome on Moloka'i. They would love to see you at one of their meetings when you're there.



Tri-Island District

Matt B. DCM

A fire gutted the Kihei Bridge Center around 11:30 P.M. on January 14 causing several A.A. groups in Kihei to lose their meeting places. It appears that most of the groups have found new homes at this time, at least on a temporary basis. As of now there has been no decision on whether to rebuild, replace or anything else so the Maui A.A. schedule has been updated to show the new meeting places. A complete list of those changes appears on page 4 of this issue of the Serenity Gazette as well.



If anyone has information about the Can Do Maui Men's Step Study which was meeting at 6:30 on Monday nights at the Bridge Club, please call Central Office with the information. If you are aware of any other incorrect or inaccurate information on the schedule, please call Central Office as well.

STEP TWO

Came To Believe That A Power Greater Than Ourselves Could Restore Us To Sanity

“Are you going to let alcohol kick your butt?” asked my wife when she smelled the cherry vodka on my breath. I had found about half a bottle in our daughter’s bedroom and quickly downed it. “Well, I really don’t know,” I answered.

It was Sunday afternoon, about a week after I had been arrested for D.U.I. and Felony Hit & Run. To say I was in shock, denial and a little numb from what I had done would be an understatement. Actually it was more like shame and fear and looking for a rock under and more alcohol to take the edge off of what I was now facing. I really didn’t know who could help me. I hired a lawyer and got an alcohol assessment so why not try A.A.? Maybe my wife would get off my back.

It’s a rainy March day as I pull into the parking lot of Po’okela Church at 6:30 in the morning, still a little dark. I went inside to a room of about 40 people, none of whom I cared to know. I sat in a metal chair and waited for an hour to go by.

Morning after morning, little by little, I realized that the God I had known from my youth was actually here. I let go of the fear, let go of the shame, I laughed with them and told them the truth. Wow, this was not what I expected at all. I got to work on a deeper relationship with my higher power, family and friends! I went to jail and actually felt the support of my home group, family and God. I faced the financial dragons and things of my past. Maybe, just maybe I change a little as I get older; not act like a thirteen year-old when things don’t work out as I planned.

Lately it’s just deeper into Trust. I’ve come to believe that God can meet me anywhere and anytime. The restoration project is taking place in my life. Wait for it now; one day at a time. As for the sanity part, well I’m still waiting for that too.

-Bill D.



TRADITION TWO

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

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too, is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, "This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere." These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A.A. member if this really works. -Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, P.132 reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Well... speaking from my own experience, strength and hope, I have seen this work perfectly as it should and I have also seen the whole process get completely hijacked. Sometimes it works so well that it almost brings tears to my eyes. Other times people abuse the system so badly they make me want to cry. The Tradition is also subject to abuse *by the system itself*.

To work well, the process requires an *informed* group conscience. If the voters are well informed on all the issues involved and there is vigorous and open-minded debate, I have 100% faith in the result, even if it doesn't go the way I would like. I see this happen most of the time and it is beautiful to watch.

On all important issues the process also requires *substantial unanimity*, which means that a 2/3 vote is required to pass a motion. This sometimes requires a certain amount of give-and-take or compromise to re-form the motion so it is acceptable to more members than a simple majority vote would be. Ideally that results in greater good for the group as a whole. And that is how it usually works out. I once witnessed an Intergroup meeting at which the vote was something like 15 to 1. In the A.A. process, the losing side gets to make a final pitch for their position. That one person gave an eloquent little speech and **everybody** changed their vote. The decision was reversed.

Is it possible to overcome the ultimate authority of a loving God as expressed in a group conscience?

Yes. I have seen situations when people get to politicking in a way which perverts the process. Prior to the business meeting, they go around and get several people to agree to vote with their side. These may be people who rarely if ever go to that business meeting. In most groups where the number of people at a business meeting is usually small, the group conscience can easily be overcome with a few extra voters. Another problem with politicking is that a group of people come to the meeting with their minds already made up, thus subverting the purpose of having an informing, open-minded debate. Usually, the honesty and open-mindedness which most A.A. members develop is enough to ensure against this, but not always.

Does a group conscience taken by a group calling itself "We Agnostics" still carry the authority of a loving God? OK, that was just a joke. But we did have a motion made on Maui make it all the way to New York only to see the group conscience subverted by **the system**.

A motion was made at the "We Agnostics" meeting in Kihei to petition the General Service Conference (A.A. as a whole) to develop a pamphlet of stories from atheists and agnostics showing that they are welcome in A.A. and can successfully stay sober. The motion passed unanimously at the group level and at the District level. It also passed at the Area (State) level with substantial unanimity and was sent to the General Service Conference in New York. However, before the GSC, which is composed of 97 elected delegates from all over the U.S. and Canada, *before they even had a chance to discuss it*, the motion was killed by 2 or 3 Trustees on the Trustees Literature Committee. The Delegates Literature Committee never even had a chance to discuss it! There was never a chance to know the will of God because it was hijacked by a couple of Trustees. The *system* is set up so that the group conscience of all our elected delegates is sometimes not allowed to make decisions for us. Hmm... kind of reminds me of Iran where the people can elect a new leader but the will of one Grand Ayatollah can completely overrule the will of the people as expressed in a democratic vote. So much for that "upside-down triangle". -Rich H.

Central Office Bash

A Celebration of Our Sobriety

Hosted and Sponsored by Maui Intergroup

SUNDAY

April 3, 2011

Eddie Tam Gym

931 Makawao Avenue, Makawao

***POTLUCK!** Please Bring any of the following:
Main dish, side dish, salad, soda, water, dessert*

MEETING CHANGES

The following meetings have moved to new locations due to the fire at **Kihei Bridge Center** (all meetings are at the same time as before):

Sunday, "To Thine Own Self Be True" now at **6:45 A.M.** at St. Theresa Church.

Saturday & Sunday, "We Agnostics" now at St. Theresa Church.

Wednesday "We Agnostics" is now at Keolahou Church, 177 S. Kihei Road.

Monday thru Friday "On Awakening" now at Kalama Heights, lower parking lot, lower entrance, first room on the left.

8:00 Monday Night Big Book now at Keolahou Church, 177 S. Kihei Road.

Tuesday Can Do Maui Men's Stag now at Keolahou Church, 177 S. Kihei Road.

Thursday "Step Sisters" now at Keolahou Church, 177 S. Kihei Road.

Friday "Night Owls" is now outside the Bridge Club on the picnic table. Look for the lantern.

Monday Can Do Maui Men's Step Study - no word has been received concerning this meeting. Please call Central Office if you have any information about this meeting or if you need information about it.

"Kahana Spinners" is now a chip meeting.

A.A. RX

*The Antidote for
the Same Old*

*Story is to tell my own
story from a new angle. If I am
tired of other people's stories,
maybe I can learn something by
listening from a new angle .*



PRAASA 2011

March 4 - 6, 2011

**Ala Moana Hotel
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Register online at www.praasa.org

Hotel Information: www.tinyurl.com/praaahotel

INTERGROUP MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 8, 2011

-Meeting called to order at 6:00pm and opened with the Serenity Prayer. Preamble read by Jean. Kawika asked for a volunteer to record this Meeting Minutes, Trudy volunteered.

-Review and approval of last months Minutes.

-Introduction of Members, 20 members in attendance.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT (by Kawika)

-Intergroup Recording Secretary is needed, normal requirements would be 2 years sobriety, attend monthly IG meeting and record the Minutes. 2 year commitment.

-Discussion of IG operating expenses, shortage of cash flow due to output of money with the alkathons and events.

-Upcoming Central Office Bash

-Discussion of 2 minute reports by IG Reps.

TREASURER'S REPORT (by Lauren)

-Review and approval of Treasurer's Report.

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT (by Rich)

-PO Box was closed at end of December, 2010. Send all correspondence direct to the office:

70 Central Ave., Suite 1, Wailuku, HI 96793

-\$1000 was borrowed from the literature account to help cover expenses; should be replenished by the end of January.

-Central Office Report accepted.

EVENT REPORTS

-Xmas Alkathon report by Rich. Event was hosted by We Agnostics. No seed money was used as the expenses were minimal (approx \$52) due to the overage of supplies from the previous Alkathon. Net income \$432.00

-New Years Alkathon report by Rich. Good turn out, successful event, broke even financially, everyone had a great time.

NEW BUSINESS

-Central Office Bash – Will be April 4th at the Eddie Tam Center. The date was selected so we would not conflict with other Area or District Events. Rich gave a brief description of what is the Central Office Bash: a time for fellowship and to promote the purpose and activities of Central Office.

Suggestions for a location were discussed by group members. The IG members decided on 2 locations which Rich will check availability on 1st choice Wailuku Community Center (motion made by Christy as this is a venue we have not used in a long time) 2nd choice Kihei Community Center. Rich to update us at the next IG meeting.

INTERGROUP REP. REPORTS

-Upcountry Sunrise-Marianne: Member suggested no court papers to be signed at specific meetings, discussed.

-Happy Hour-Colleen: 2nd basket is being passed to recoup costs from the last BBQ the group hosted.

-Laura suggested members contact Central Office prior to the next business meeting to add "anything on your mind" to the agenda.

-Paniolo Group-Christy: Big meeting, format was changed to become more familiar to the new comers.

-Mare made a motion to add Intergroup Rep. 2 min. reports towards the end of the meeting, all were in favor. Will be noted on the next meeting agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

-Re: IRS pending issue, Rich is handling and will keep the groups updated.

TAKE BACKS

-Intergroup Recording Secretary needed. Contact Rich at Central office for more info.

-Central Office needs a volunteer to work in the office. Contact Rich for more info.

-Joan, the liaison for the women's prison, needs volunteers to carry the message into the women's prison. Contact Joan for more info at 874-0214

-Maui Fest needs volunteers, the next committee meeting is 2/12 8:30am at St. Theresa's Church in Kihei, contact Maria for more info 214-3351

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm and closed with the Responsibility Pledge.

Next IG Meeting 2/12/11 Kahului Union Church at 6:00pm

CONTRIBUTING GROUPS	January
Alana Ohana	\$315.00
Anonymous Contributions	\$20.00
Back To Basics	\$18.00
Club 449	\$45.00
Friday Gay & Lesbian Big Book	\$24.18
Happy Hour	\$390.77
High In The Sky - Kula	\$150.28
Intergroup - Monthly Meeting	\$21.00
Just Do It	\$48.75
Kihei Womens 12&12 Step Study	\$100.00
Lahaina Big Book Study(\$154.65
Maui Sunset	\$196.00
Paki Maui Group	\$250.00
Pau Hana (Kahului)	\$23.50
Primary Purpose	\$750.00
Upcountry Sunrise	\$46.14
Wailuku Group	\$10.35
We Agnostics	\$93.52
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$2,657.14

INCOME REPORT: January, 2011		AMOUNT
DESCRIPTION		T
Total Group Contributions:		\$2,657.14
This month/year 17 Groups have contributed		
Refund from County Parks for Alkathons		\$740.00
20% Literature Split		\$411.70
New Year Alkathon		\$20.00
New Year Alkathon Income=\$739.85-Exp\$775=-\$35.15		\$364.36
Literature Starting Balance	\$36.75	
Sales / Deposit	\$2,633.52	
Expenses	\$2,659.35	
Closing Balance	\$10.92	
Checking Starting Balance	\$630.83	
Income / Deposit	\$4,193.20	
Expenses	\$3,662.10	
Closing Balance	\$1,161.93	
Prudent Reserve	\$10,561.91	
Monthly INCOME:		\$4,193.20
2011 YEAR TO DATE INCOME:		\$4,193.20

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORT	EXPENSE REPORT: January, 2011	
	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<p>• Thank you to all the members & groups that contributed this month. Your support through these financially tough times has been amazing. We are still struggling a bit financially so every little bit helps. Thank you also to everyone who supported the Alkathons. They were very well-attended and successful in every way. It seems obvious that many members need and enjoy the events Intergroup sponsors throughout the year so we will continue to try to make them better all the time. Our next event is the Central Office Bash which will be held at Eddie Tam Center in Makawao this year. In the past, the doors have opened around 5:30 PM but we have the space reserved from 8AM on so let's use it and have a softball game or Scrabble, meetings, or?, or other activities during the day! Intergroup is the host for the event but we can use everyone's help and ideas so, if you can contribute either, call Central Office and let them know. 244-9673.</p> <p>• Combined totals for December and January: Calls 260, 12 Step calls 11, Books sold: 143, pamphlets: 1400.</p> <p>• We are discussing Intergroup Event locations and dates at the Intergroup meeting this month and will vote on those things at the March meeting so tell your Intergroup Rep if you have ideas about such things.</p>	Haran Development (Rent)	\$525.00
	Kilakila	\$1,003.05
	Literature account repayment	\$500.00
	Hawaiian Telcom	\$134.37
	Rich H (Xmas alkathon seed money)	\$47.36
	Kilakila	\$1,000.35
	AA Maui Lit acct repayment	\$400.00
	Savings Acct (Prudent Reserve)	\$25.00
	Grapevine (digital Grapevine 1 year)	\$26.97
	TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$3,662.10
	2011 YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES:	\$3,662.10
	YTD NET INCOME	\$531.10

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE OFFICE AND PHONE VOLUNTEERS
OFFICE: BRYAN, CAT, ROSIE, BILL L, AND PAT V.
PHONES: DARYL, ALI, DENNIS, CAT, MONTE, KIMO, NORI, SUSIE

Of Myth and Martyrs

There is a myth circulating among some AA long-timers. The short form goes like this: *Years ago, back when I was a newcomer, AA was solidly unified behind the message carried in the Big Book. Old-timers welcomed me to meetings where the only thing spoken was the wisdom of the Big Book and the Twelve Steps. Nobody talked about their struggles with drugs, sex, money, religion, food, smoking, emotions. None of that muddied the pure waters of good old-time AA. And God forbid anybody might think they'd learned something about alcoholism anywhere else--like from a therapist or rehab or another outside source. Never happened back in those days. No sir, not when we had only real alcoholics at meetings.*

According to this fairy tale, long-timers got the "real AA" from the old-timers, and most transgressions of AA tradition have been introduced to meetings since then by twenty-eight-day-wonder, poly-addicted, rehab babies who are primed by therapists to talk about their feelings.

As the authors of this AA lore frequently admit, newcomers leave them "confused and frightened when what I hear in meetings is not the message of AA." (J. J. from Belton, S.C. in the May 1995 issue).

I would add two more emotions evident in this point of view, both of which I've experienced as well: guilt and what the Big Book calls "a feeling of anxious apartness." In order to move beyond these feelings--ones that every bleeding deacon suffers from--I've learned to ask myself two questions in my daily inventory: am I still learning? Am I too busy preaching?

I've been around AA for fourteen years, and sober for twelve, by the grace of God. I also attend Al-Anon, so I've learned to recognize when I'm laying a guilt trip on others, and when I'm viewing a problem in order to suit my peculiarly alcoholic need to see myself as a martyr. "Oh, woe is me" is how I play the role. "I'm a lone AA traditionalist, carrying the *real* AA program out here among these heathen addicts all by myself."

The purpose of this kind of message is to place guilt, to inflate my self-importance, and to manipulate others (mostly vulnerable, impressionable newcomers) so they'll conform to a narrow use of language and behavior with which I'm comfortable. The implication is that if they don't, they are doing something wrong, something that will harm the AA program and strangle their own prospects for sobriety. After all, I reason soundly, it's for their own good.

I've thought and said all these things. For me this behavior was the product of long-standing fear and insecurity. The truth is that since the first day I walked through the doors of AA, I've heard people bemoaning the loss of *the way it used to be*. And I've seen many drift away because of this attitude. First comes the loss of humor--every transgression of "the way things should be" seems serious and threatening. Then comes the loss of faith.

So I want to suggest to those who are nostalgic about the old days that the history presented in our Step book, in old Grapevines, and in Conference-approved biographies shows that AA has always been rife with controversy, resentment, and not-so-petty rows. In fact, when the program was at its most vulnerable, the real old-timers made bigger mistakes than anyone has dreamed up since.

Today, can we even imagine a local AA group soliciting other people's money to open its own rehab, loan office, and educational center? How about the General Service Office approaching wealthy philanthropists for handouts to make up for a budget shortfall? Or groups deliberately excluding women and people of color from their meetings? The old-timers did these things, and more.

But these horrendous mistakes didn't stop the growth and the impact of the AA program. The other addictions and treatment programs that some well-meaning but inexperienced newcomers talk about at meetings are small change relative to the intolerance, blunders, and internal rancor that first spurred Bill W. to write the Traditions, and then to relentlessly defend them against hostile old-timers who considered them too complicated.

In addition to information about the tumultuous history of the Fellowship, our Step book has some advice for hand-wringers: Don't like what's going on in your home group? Then take some action. Start your own group.

The hitch is: once the group gains its own momentum, you have to turn it over to the group conscience. Do you have enough faith in Tradition Two to do that? Might not the groups you're so worried about also be under the guidance of "a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience"?

Come on, long-timers, get real. Laugh a little. The program is alive and well and thriving for millions of us. Raising the alarm for the sake of AA is what Rule #62 should guard against.

Sure, the language people use at meetings is changing. Just as the problems they bring to meetings--economic, personal, chemical--are changing. That's life on life's terms. Everything changes. But the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts remain to guide our behavior, as surely as the seven deadly sins guide our inventories. AA unity is an ideal to which we still aspire, and which we still fail to achieve. Just like it's always been.

Those who believe the program used to be unified, heterogeneous, and peacefully engaged in only our singleness of purpose are dreaming. The miracle at the heart of AA has always been a gritty, turbulent one. The push and pull between great love and great suffering rends the resilient spiritual fabric of our groups again and again; and people still get sober.

Maybe the lesson is that, despite the growing diversity of our membership and the burdensome complexity of our service structure, the real power of AA still resides in one alcoholic talking to another. Not in a fixed way of doing things, not in a fixed set of words, but in the living, changing, growing spirit we share, one alcoholic to another. How can any of us claim that simply because of changes in the language and concerns expressed at meetings, this can no longer be so?

A final question to consider: would any of us have found it inspiring or helpful as newcomers to listen to some wistful harangue about how wonderful AA *used to be*? -Ernest S. York Harbor, Maine, October, 1995 -Reprinted with permission of the Grapevine.

MauiFest VII
The Aloha Spirit in Action

June 1st- 5th, 2011
Wailea Marriott
Maui, Hawaii

Early Registration
(Until April 30th) \$50

Regular Registration \$60

For more information
contact:

Ed J. - Outreach @
808-283-7632

Website: mauifest.org



The Napali Coast

Full Moon Sobriety

Camping Adventures in 2011:

June 15-19, July 13-17 and August 12-16

Kayak, Motor Boat or Walk In. Camping, Fellowship, Hikes and AA Meetings! This trip is for experienced hikers and campers. Please consult the Hawaii State Park website for the possible dangers. AA cannot guarantee your safety nor the absence of alcohol as this is a public campground. Call 'Kalalau Chris' for more information at 212-6009

Get your permits now: www.hawaii.stateparks.com

"...Serenity By The Sea..."

Women in AA Spiritual Retreat on Maui

April 8, 9 and 10, 2011

Friday 4 p.m. - Sunday noon

Come join us on the beautiful Kanae Peninsula at Maui's North Shore YMCA camp. Lot's of fellowship & Self-discovery Incredible Ocean views!!!

Also at: www.info@aamaui.org

Registration for 3 days and 2 nights is \$125.00

Registration deadline is: February 14, 2011, then at \$135.00

Included are 5 delicious meals (for both Vegetarian & Carnivores)

Accommodations include: Twin bunk beds in cabins,

Camping is also available. Bathhouses with Hot showers.

- For SCHOLARSHIP information, please email Meri-Jo at:

- ehuohana@yahoo.com

SUNDAY,

February 27th

Hana Caravan

Meet at Wananalua
Church in Hana

POTLUCK DINNER at
4:30pm

A.A. Meeting at
6:00pm - 7pm

**This is no longer an organ-
ized event meeting at Paia
Community Center.**

**Please make your own
arrangements for travel.**

**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

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criticism or suggestions without hesitation.

All Other Islands

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www.OahuCentralOffice.com

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www.aamaui.org

West Hawai'i (Big Island, Kona)

(808) 329-1212

<http://westhawaiiiaa.org/>

East Hawai'i (Hilo & Puna)

(808) 961-6133

Keep Coming Back!