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Maui Intergroup

June, 2009

74th Anniversary Founders Day celebration

We came together on Sunday, June 7th at the Kihei VFW Post along the Oceanside to celebrate the founding of this great organization we belong to - Alcoholics Anonymous. For those of you who are new, A.A. has celebrated June 10th as its anniversary because that is the day Dr. Bob took his last drink after being sought and aided in his recovery by Bill W.

Kihei Sunday Beach Group hosted the event and it came off without a hitch. Everyone there had a great time enjoying the fellowship, food and the venue. Jackie B. and Bob A. did the speaking honors and Laura S acted as the MC for the day. Thanks to all the folks who helped to set up, decorate, serve and clean up afterwards. And thanks to everyone who came and for your generous contributions.

Please call Central Office with any feedback you may have on the event and, hopefully, everyone liked the venue because we are planning to reserve it again next year and have an even bigger celebration for A.A.'s 75th Anniversary. Keep coming back! It really does work.

6th Step: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Are You Waxing--Or Working--The Program?

PROBABLY the one basic essential, necessary for getting sober and staying sober through the AA program, is *sincerity*. The word is used so much in the practice of the program that it might be interesting to indulge in a little research into its origin. As I understand it, at one time the Romans sold marble building stone to the Gauls. Even then they must have had sharp business practices, because occasionally the Gauls would discover that the Romans had concealed blemishes and defects in the stone by filling them with wax. Then the heat of the sun would melt the wax, thus revealing those defects, sometimes after the stone was already in the wall. In order to protect themselves against this practice the Gauls had a clause inserted into the contract, to the effect that the stone was to be delivered without wax. In the Latin language of the contract, "without" was written as *sine*; "wax" as *cere*.

Therefore the marble was to be delivered *sine-cere*. Without wax. In time the two words were combined into one, meaning, in the present day English (according to Funk & Wagnalls dictionary) "1. Being in reality as in appearance. 2. Intending precisely what one says or what one appears to intend; honest in one's action or profession."

This wax, as it applies to the personality of an alcoholic, is deceptive stuff. The Sixth Step says, "we became entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." Right now is when we find out how sincere we really are. How much "wax" we've been using. Wax ought to be easy to remove, but the stuff as it applies to an alcoholic is as sticky as flypaper. Even when we are rid of it, it seems to grow back by itself, even as insincerity creeps back.

The founders of AA must have recognized this danger because they offered a "wax solvent" in the form of the Third and Eleventh Steps,--a very effective solvent that should be applied daily. . . particularly the phrase "sought through prayer and meditation to increase our conscious contact with God," a vital ingredient in that solvent which will permit us to live a life free from alcohol. A sincere life. Without wax!

L. L. Superior, Wis., via Chit-Chat

From the September, 1953 Grapevine. Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

OUR BUTTERFLY

“It is said that a butterfly fluttering its wings in Beijing may, by that action, initiate currents that will ultimately affect the weather of New York. So it is that the word or deed of any A.A. member may, if persuasive and appealing, initiate currents that affect the Fellowship. The process for publishing the Big Book in Swahili, for example, started with a comment made at an A.A. Regional Forum in Maryland”

-Michael Alexander, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee emeritus

In the autumn of 2007, a motion was made at the regular monthly meeting of District 11 (Kihei, Maui, HI) in Area 17 (Hawaii). The motion was for the creation of a new A.A. pamphlet containing stories of agnostics and atheists who have achieved long-term sobriety within the program of A.A. while remaining agnostic or atheist. It was decided that the motion should be sent back to the groups in the district for their consideration and group conscience. A month later the motion was discussed and voted on at the next District meeting. It was passed unanimously.

Next it was sent to the Area level and, after a similar process, it was discussed and voted on by the voting members of Area 17 on January 27, 2008 on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. It passed with substantial unanimity at that meeting and was sent to the General Service Conference in New York to be considered at their 2009 meeting.

At first it was rejected by the Trustees Literature Committee but then it was revived and referred to the 2009 Conference Committee on Literature as a discussion topic on whether there is a need to develop A.A. Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers. Area 17's (i.e. Hawaii Area) correspondence was forwarded to the conference as background material.

The Conference Committee on Literature recommended that the trustees' Committee on Literature develop a questionnaire to gather input from the Fellowship on whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A. and... that a report which includes a summary of the results from the responses to the questionnaire be presented to the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature.

Subsequently, the following Floor Action was submitted to the Conference body, which, again, did not result in an advisory action: however was “recommitted” to the agenda of the 2010 Conference Committee on Literature:

“That we develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.”

So... the butterfly is still in it's cocoon and possibly morphing into something other than it's original shape but it is still alive and possibly initiating currents that will save many lives in the future of our Fellowship! If you are interested in this and other GSC issues, then please come to the:

Delegate Report

On the 2009

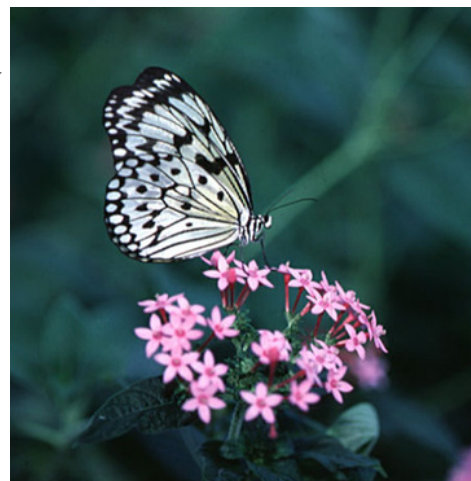
General Service Conference

At the Area 17 “Inform the Delegate Assembly” held in April, we presented information on a number of panel topics to be discussed at the General Service Conference in New York. Elizabeth M., our Panel 59 Hawaii Area 17 Delegate took this “Area 17 conscience” to the General Service Conference. Come and join us for her report.

Saturday, June 27, 2009

Wailuku Union Church, High Street, Wailuku, HI

8:00 a.m. – Coffee & Pastries, 9:00 a.m. – Report



Do You Remember When??

We died of pneumonia in furnished rooms where they found us three days after when somebody complained about the smell.

We died against bridge abutments and nobody knew if it was suicide and we probably didn't know either except in the sense that it was always suicide.

We died in hospitals, our stomachs huge, distended and there was nothing they could do.

We died in cells, never knowing whether we were guilty or not. We went to priests, they gave us pledges, they told us to pray, they told us to go and sin no more, but go. We tried and we died.

We died of overdoses, we died in bed (but usually not the Big Bed). We died in straitjackets, in the DT's seeing God knows what, creeping, skittering, slithering, and shuffling things. And you know what the worst thing was? The worst thing was that nobody ever believed how hard we tried.

We went to doctors and they gave us stuff to take that would make us sick when we drank on the principle of "so crazy, it just might work," I guess, or maybe they just shook their heads and sent us to places like Drop kick Murphy's. And when we got out we were hooked on paraldehyde or maybe we lied too. And the doctors and they told us not to drink so much, just drink like me. And we tried, and we died.

We drowned in our own vomit or choked on it, our broken jaws wired shut.

We died playing Russian roulette and people thought we'd lost, but we knew better.

We died under the hoofs of horses, under the wheels of vehicles, under the knives and boot heels of our brother drunks. We died in shame.

And you know what was even worse was that we couldn't believe it ourselves, that we had tried. We figured we just thought we tried and we died believing that we hadn't tried, believing that we didn't know what it meant to try.

When we were desperate enough or hopeful or deluded or embattled enough to go for help, we went to people with letters after their names and prayed that they might have read the right books, that had the right words in them, never suspecting the terrifying truth, that the right words, as simple as they were, had not been written yet.

We died falling off girders on high buildings, because of course ironworkers drink, of course they do. We died with a shotgun in our mouth, or jumping off a bridge, and everybody knew it was suicide.

We died under the Southeast Expressway, with our hands tied behind us and a bullet in the back of our head, because this time the people that we disappointed were the wrong people.

We died in convulsions, or of "insult to the brain," we died incontinent, and in disgrace, abandoned. If we were women, we died degraded, because women have so much more to live up to. We tried and we died and nobody cried.

And the very worst thing was that for every one of us that died, there were another hundred of us, or another thousand, who wished that we could die, who went to sleep praying we would not have to wake up because what we were enduring was intolerable and we knew in our hearts it wasn't ever going to change.

One day in a hospital room in New York City, one of us had what the books call a transforming spiritual experience, and he said to himself "I've got it" (no, you haven't, you've only got part of it) "and I have to share it." (Now you've ALMOST got it) and he kept trying to give it away, but we couldn't hear it. We tried and we died.

We died of one last cigarette, the comfort of its glowing in the dark. We passed out and the bed caught fire. They said we suffocated before our body burned, they said we never felt a thing, that was the best way maybe that we died, except sometimes we took our family with us.

And the man in New York was so sure he had it, he tried to love us into sobriety, but that didn't work either, love confuses drunks and he tried and we still died.

One after another we got his hopes up and we broke his heart, because that's what we do. And the worst thing was that every time we thought we knew what the worst thing was something happened that was worse.

Until a day came in a hotel lobby and it wasn't in Rome, or Jerusalem, or Mecca or even Dublin, or South Boston, it was in Akron, Ohio, for Christ's sake.

A day came when the man said I have to find a drunk because I need him as much as he needs me (NOW you've got it). And the transmission line, after all those years, was open, the transmission line was open. And now we don't go to priests, and we don't go to doctors and people with letters after their names.

We come to people who have been there, we come to each other. And we try. And we don't have to die. -Jack Murphy (Jack's permission? Here: "Feel free to read the poem to any audience any time. But if you should give out a printed copy or an email, please make sure my name is on it. If the poem survives, I'm not humble enough yet to want it to be as 'by Anonymous.'")

INTERGROUP MINUTES 5/9/09 MEETING

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Opened with the Serenity Prayer followed by Introductions.

Motion made and carried to approve last months minutes.

-Steering Committee Report:

- a. met with the employee lease program, everything is going great with this service.
- b. Feedback was given regarding reaching out to Groups to create Intergroup participation.
- c. Stephanie is working on trying to get a non-business rate for our phone service at central office.

-Treasurer Report: see report

- a. approved \$2,000 from prudent reserve was used to payoff outstanding 2008 taxes.

-Central Office Manager Report: we are now compliant with the 501C-3 tax situation. The \$750 application fee was not required because this is a reinstatement, not a new application. Rich has secured the Cameron Center for the Holiday Events and was quoted an insurance rate of \$375 for all three events.

Literature rates will increase this summer, Rich to make a large literature purchase from GSO before the rate increases.

-Old Business:

- a. Intergroup is sponsoring a dance on Saturday 8/29 at the Maui Tropical Plantation (flyers are out) Intergroup Reps. are asked to help sell the tickets at \$40 per person. A portion (\$10) is a contribution to Intergroup. Rich to assist in the collecting of the funds and monitoring of tickets distributed to members.
- b. Founders Day: being held at the VFW Hall, side dishes and deserts are needed the Food Committee members will be reaching out to Groups to announce. Intergroup reps. are encouraged to ask your groups to do a suggested monetary donation of \$25 to help with the food.

-New Business:

Lengthy discussion with Group members regarding the need for the Central Office Manager's position and what the position entails.

Motion was made and passed to maintain the position of Central Office Manager as is.

-District Reports:

Delegate report back on 6/27 at the Wailuku Union Church, Budget Assembly on 8/26, home stay help is needed.

Take Back to Groups:

Monetary donations asked from all groups for Founders Day

Intergroup Reps. to announce all upcoming events

Unanimous vote made by Intergroup members to keep the Central Office Manager Position as is.

501 C-3 tax-exempt status has been reinstated. Still need to file financial statements for the last 7 years.

Central Office Report

- If your group makes quarterly splits to Central Office, please consider making them on a monthly basis. Thanks to your generosity, we are receiving enough money to run the office but our bills are due monthly so we have a cash flow problem when we receive contributions on a quarterly basis.
- Calls 277, 12th Step calls 18, Books sold 99, Pamphlets sold 166. We need some help answering phones from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM on Tuesday and Thursday. Please call 280-8049 if you can help.
- After much service to Central office volunteering one afternoon per week, Dot has decided to take some time off. Our Tuesday morning volunteer, Thomas has also had to give up his position. Thank you so much for your service Dot and Thomas! Also to Stephanie S. who also resigned but is still Intergroup Chair.
- We also have three new volunteers working in the office as well as Bill L who has served for a long time now. Here is the complete list of the new volunteers: David H, Nikki K and Art R.
- If you or someone you know would like to volunteer a few hours each week in the office, call 244-9673 for more information. Suggested sobriety requirement is 2 years. The commitment is to work a 4 hour shift in the office once a week. We really need another volunteer right now!

Income and Expense Report-May 2009

Income:	
Group Contributions	\$1,121.42
Refund from County - Central Office	\$150.00
20% Literature Split	\$160.27
Anonymous Contribution	\$20.00
Total Income	\$1,451.69

Expense:	
Haran Development-Rent	\$525.00
Adam A (reimburse Molokai IG Rep)	\$138.00
Kila Kila-payroll	\$951.13
Laura S (Founders day seed money)	\$150.00
Hawaiian Telcom	\$52.95
Total Expense	\$1,817.08
Net Income for the month	-\$365.39

Bank Balance Report	
Operating Account:	
Beginning Bal.	\$79.17
Deposits-Income	\$1,875.80
Subtotal	\$1,954.97
Less Expenses PAID	\$1,817.08
Grand Total Operating Account:	\$137.89
Less Current Liabilities:	
Withholding & Fica-Jan/Feb/Mar09	\$1,300.74
Withholding & Fica-partial April (estimate)	\$100.00
Subtotal	\$1,400.74
Total Available funds as of 5-31-09	-\$1,262.85

Literature Account:	
Beginning Bal.	\$1,157.19
Deposits- Literature Sales	\$801.35
Subtotal	\$1,958.54
Less Expenses-Literature	\$1,287.27
20% Split to Operating Account	\$160.27
Subtotal expenses	\$1,447.54
Grand Total	\$511.00

Prudent Reserve:	\$ 10,050.00
interest	0.40
Grand Total	\$10,050.60

CONTRIBUTING GROUPS	May	2009 YTD
Alana Ohana		\$210.00
Can Do Maui Mens Step Study	\$40.00	\$40.00
Can Do Mens Stag (Kihei Tue.nite)	\$10.00	\$10.00
Club 449	\$42.56	\$147.73
Dawn Patrol		\$235.00
Food For Thought		\$80.75
Fri Nite Young People Kihei		\$22.00
Friday Gay & Lesbian Big Book		\$39.07
Haiku Hang Loose Group		\$100.00
Happy Hour Group	\$482.16	\$2,131.79
High In The Sky - Kula		\$280.00
Intergroup Meeting	\$45.00	\$139.50
Just Do It		\$101.50
Kihei Beach Group		\$220.00
Kihei Morning Serenity	\$132.34	\$539.24
Kihei Womens 12&12 Step Study		\$100.00
Lahaina Whalers Meeting		\$50.00
Living Sober		\$75.00
Manae Serenity, East Molokai		\$10.00
Monday Nite Big Book Kihei		\$90.00
Night Owls		\$22.00
Ohana Group		\$950.00
On Awakening	\$70.40	\$437.20
Over the Rainbow		\$70.00
Paki Maui Group		\$650.00
Paniolo Group		\$310.00
Primary Purpose		\$1,350.00
S. A. M. Meeting		\$150.00
Sober And Crazy		\$569.26
Step Sisters	\$32.00	\$32.00
Sunday Sunset Feelings		\$100.00
Tuesday Kihei Beginners Group	\$10.00	\$50.00
Upcountry Speakers (Fri Nite)		\$100.00
Upcountry Sunrise	\$222.65	\$877.30
Upcountry Sunset		\$75.00
VW Vagabond Belladonna BYOBB		\$10.00
Wailuku Group	\$34.31	\$187.08
Wailuku Saturday Speakers		\$164.00
We Agnostics		\$339.50
Women's AA Way of Life		\$50.00
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$1,121.42	\$11,114.92

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

Dear Sponsor Sam,
 Things are really getting bad around here! Last week I had to write a paycheck to myself out of my own pocket. I have complete faith that this too shall pass and I have completely turned it over. Is there anything else I should do to maintain my sobriety?

Sincerely,
 -Rum Raisin



Dear Rum Raisin,
 Just Don't Drink and Go To Meetings!
 -Sponsor Sam

20th ANNUAL !!!!!
 4Th of JULY PICNIC
 WAHIKULI WAYSIDE PARK
 LAHAINA

Saturday, July 4th, 11 am till fireworks

Basic food and drinks provided

Any thing you can bring to add to the food and fun, please do

Meetings at 12 noon and sunset

(AA) Alanon invited, Fun and frolic at your own risk...

The Alano Club, which is not owned or associated with A.A., has been closed due to financial problems for the past two weeks. Many meetings are held there so we report it is open again. Coffee Break and Alano Ohana will hold a joint business meeting there on Saturday June 20th. On June 16th at 1PM there will also be an organizational meeting.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.
 -Oscar Wilde

No longer meeting: the Wednesday, 6:30 PM Volkswagen Vagabond Belladonna Big Book Study which was held in Kalama Park, Kihei has closed the side door and moved on down the road.

First Annual

Bill's Dine & Dance
Saturday, August 29th
Maui Tropical Plantation

Time: 6PM - 10:30PM

Dinner Served: 6:30PM

\$40 per person

Most Excellent DJ's

Dinner Buffet menu:

- Field of Greens Tossed salad,
- Plantation Style Potato salad,
- Mahi Mahi fish in Lemon Caper Sauce
- Pineapple Sesame Teriyaki Chicken
- Sautéed Garden Vegetables
- Rice
- Assorted Cakes
- Plantation Grown Coffee
- Iced Tea



A.A. RX

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it." There is your perfect antidote for halo-poisoning.

-from the November 1972 Grapevine

Emotional Sobriety

Am I willing to let go of old habits that are no longer useful in my life?

I recently celebrated another anniversary of continuous sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. For that I am truly grateful and I wanted to pass on a few things I have learned along the way:

- I know only a little.
- I am the problem.
- The main cause of relapse is resentment, anger, fear, self-pity, selfishness, self-centeredness, loneliness, not going to meetings, not working the Steps, not getting a sponsor, not letting go of things, not surrendering completely to this simple program, not turning it over to a higher power, turning it over and taking it back, ingesting "other substances", not staying in conscious contact, not promptly admitting when we are wrong, not thoroughly following the path, not being honest with ourselves, not grasping and developing a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty, not being willing to go to any length to get it, trying an easier, softer way, holding on to our old ideas, trying half measures, not being willing to grow along spiritual lines, trying to live by self-propulsion, trying to run the whole show, being sure that other people are to blame, believing we can wrest satisfaction from this life if only we manage well, self-seeking, playing God, **not carrying the message to other alcoholics**, not keeping it simple, not getting a new employer, holding reservations, not being humble, not launching out on a course of vigorous action, not doing a personal housecleaning, not making a decision, not getting down to causes and conditions, not searching out the flaws in our makeup, not finding "our part", shutting ourselves off from the sunlight of the spirit, not showing others the same tolerance, pity and patience we would show a sick friend, not avoiding retaliation and argument, not setting matters straight, not trusting and relying on our higher power, not doing 12th Step work, doing 13th Step work, being selfish in our sex life, not avoiding hysterical thinking or advice, not admitting to God, to ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our defects, omitting something, not being willing, not sweeping away the debris, not going to any lengths for victory over alcohol, not fitting ourselves to be of maximum service, not sweeping our side of the street, not taking the actions to lose our fear of creditors, not living the spiritual life, not being painstaking about this phase of our development, not growing in understanding and effectiveness and/or any one or more of the above. Like I said, the problem is me. Did you say this is a simple program?

There are many paths to emotional sobriety. Many discover that happiness is a by-product of giving without demand for return. Others embrace the present with gratitude and claim moments of real peace, "a quiet place in bright sunshine," as Bill W. put it in the essay. *Willingness to let go of old ways of thinking and behaving seems to be what emotional sobriety is all about.* *Please write and share your experience of how A.A.'s tools have helped you to grow.* *The book Emotional Sobriety is available for sale at Central Office.*

... instead of fighting mightily against a defect, I had to let go of it. Just simply open up my hands, my heart, and my mind and say to my Higher Power. "Here it is, this defect. I give it to you. Please remove it from me."

Since then, I have followed the same procedure on other serious emotional problems, with the same result. I just have to keep in mind that if I am not 100 percent sincere in my willingness to be rid of the problem, the procedure won't work. I have come to realize that Step Six means exactly what it says. No more, no less. When, and if, I become ready to have painful, inhibiting, or long-standing flaws removed, they will be. Not always permanently, not all of them. But if and when they return, they will be weaker and much easier to let go of. As for all those bad habits I once listed as defects, I am trying to arrest them a day at a time, as I do my alcoholism.

It calls forth the most precious asset any recovering alcoholic can have: the willingness to get out of the driver's seat, to stop trying to run the show.

-excerpted from a [September 1970](#) article in the Grapevine by F.C., Manhattan, NY

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE OFFICE AND PHONE VOLUNTEERS WHO SHARE THE JOY AND DO THE WORK OF BEING THERE FOR ANYONE WHO REACHES OUT FOR HELP FROM CENTRAL OFFICE.



What is MICYPAA you say?

Well, MICYPAA is the Maui Island Campout of Young People in AA. It is really more than that . . . just come check it yo! We define young as room to grow! EVERYONE is welcome!

Registration \$65
Includes Food, Fun and Fellowship for the whole weekend.

Contacts: Melissa N. (808) 937-3869 (Chair) For Transportation call Brandon (808) 283-1125
Chris B. (808) 269-1053 (Registration) For Scholarship info call Steph (808) 269-8052

(cut & send with check)

Name: _____ Registration \$65 I'm willing to be of service
 Address: _____ Kids 5 Up to 10 \$35 I Need Transportation
 City, State & Zip: _____ Saturday Only \$25 I need Veggie Meals
 Phone # _____ specify _____
 Email _____ Special Needs
 Scholarship Donation _____ specify _____
 Total \$ _____

Make Registration Checks Payable to MICYPAA, P.O. Box 382 Pu'uhene, HI, 96784
Feel free to send email to micypaa@gmail.com

SUNDAY, June 28th
Hana Caravan starts at PAIA COMMUNITY CENTER
 Leave for Hana at 1:30pm
 Wananalua Church Hana
POTLUCK DINNER - 4:30pm
 A.A. Meeting - 5:30pm - 7p.m
 Contact: Clifford S. at 385.2183 for more info
 A Service Function of No Ka Oi District 5

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: 10am-6pm
 Meeting schedule online:
www.aamaui.org
 Email: info@aamaui.org

Contact Maui Serenity Gazette
808-244-9673
 PO Box 1208, Wailuku, HI 96793
 The Gazette has switched to online-only format to reduce costs. To register for FREE email delivery send your email address to: info@aamaui.org . It can also be read online at: <http://aamaui.org/gazette.html> .
 You can contribute articles on any A.A. subject. Submissions must be received by the end of each month to be included the next month. Full Submission Guidelines are also on the website listed above.
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