



# Maui Serenity Gazette

September, 2009

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Recently, an issue has arisen at some of the meetings in Kihei around the issue of whether some groups should change the sobriety requirements for service positions to include the words "clean and sober". A member from Kihei wrote the following letter to the A.A. General Service Office in New York to seek guidance on the issue:

**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2009 4:23 PM

**To:** Regionalforums

**Subject:** clean & sober

Aloha Eva,

My name is Colin H. I am a member of a group where we are discussing sobriety requirements to be a "Trusted Servant" and I send you this list of "shoulds" which was read at our last business mtg. When I heard this, the hair on the back of my neck was raised...it sounded punitive! Can I please get some clarity as, if this has come from GSO and, if not, what is the answer GSO has.

G.S.O. New York- Sandra-August 2009

1. Singleness of purpose- refers to someone drinking to be able to attend a meeting. However, it is a weak argument to allow someone to lead or secretary a meeting who is smoking pot.
2. To Thine Own Self Be True- originates from being completely sober i.e., no mood altering drugs.
3. If you've been to the dentist and have taken a Percocet you shouldn't Secretary a meeting on that day because you are considered "under the influence". This does not mean you have to change your sobriety date.
4. Under NO circumstances should someone who is smoking pot be chairing a meeting.
5. Under No circumstances should someone who is smoking pot be sponsoring people.
6. A guy who is two days clean and sober can help someone who is clean and sober one day.

Thank You for all of your service and help, Colin H.

[The following is the response from the General Service office:](#)

From: Regionalforums <regionalforums@aa.org>

Subject: RE: clean & sober

To: "Colin H"

Date: Thursday, August 27, 2009, 11:22 AM

Dear Colin:

Warmest greetings from all of your friends at the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York. Thank you for your recent inquiry and this opportunity to be in touch.

Colin, the "G.S.O. New York- Sandra-August 2009" and the six points included did not come from the General Service Office. It is not what any employee in this office would share with any member, group, local entity or other. As a matter of fact, it runs counter to what we would share and there has not been a G.S.O. staff member named "Sandra" working here.

As you know, we have been clearly guided by the group conscience of A.A. as a whole not to get involved in local group matters. All we can share is collected A.A. experience. We are not a governing or central authority, and each group is autonomous; thus, we would not give directives to any group or member.

Having said this, I am going to refer you to the A.A. Conference-approved pamphlet, "Problems other than Alcohol." In this, our co-founder, Bill W. describes sobriety in the following statement, "Sobriety - freedom from alcohol - through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an A.A. group..." In this, Bill W. defines sobriety and this is the closest thing to a definition of sobriety in all of our A.A. literature. Generally speaking, sobriety has always been for the individual to determine, not for someone else to decide. Some groups will refer to Tradition Three, Short and Long Form, where it states that the only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking and that our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism.

The observation of some members having been around a long time, is that smoking pot can lead to trouble and jeopardize one's sobriety. The individual member smoking pot needs to come to a decision about this. A.A. is nonprofessional and not in the position to diagnose whether someone is addicted to other substances, such as pot. The A.A. Conference-approved pamphlet, "The A.A.. Member-Medications and Other Drugs," may be helpful. On page 9 in this pamphlet, a member shares about smoking pot.

Colin, it is unlikely that you will find the term "clean" in any A.A. Conference-approved literature. It is not a term that A.A. uses. "Clean" is a term that originated in Narcotics Anonymous (N.A.) and is familiar in their literature. We have no definition to offer on the term "clean."

We trust the process and know that your group will discuss this matter thoroughly and reach an informed group conscience. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to write again. In the meantime, we send our very best wishes to you and the group.

In fellowship, Eva S., G.S.O. Staff

## Tradition Nine

**The ninth of a new series of articles explaining The Twelve Traditions  
"AA, AS SUCH, OUGHT NEVER BE ORGANIZED; BUT WE MAY CREATE SERVICE BOARDS  
OR COMMITTEES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE THEY SERVE."**

WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization." In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous. . . AA as a whole. . . should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, "What do they mean, no organization?!"

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn't every society on earth give authority of some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an AA member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We've tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result. Groups have tried to expel members, but the banished come back to sit in the meeting place saying, "This is life for us; you can't keep us out." Committees have instructed many an AA to stop working on a chronic backslider, only to be told: "How I do my Twelfth Step work is my business. Who are you to judge?" This doesn't mean an AA won't take advice or suggestion from more experienced members, but he surely won't take orders. Who is more unpopular than the old-time AA, full of wisdom, who moves to another area and tries to tell the group there how to run its business? He and all like him who "view with alarm for the good of AA" meet the most stubborn resistance or, worse still, laughter.

You might think AA's headquarters in New York would be an exception. Surely the people there would have to have some authority. But long ago, trustees and secretaries alike found they could do no more than make suggestions, and very mild ones at that. They even had to coin a couple of sentences which still go into half the letters they write: "Of course you are at perfect liberty to handle this matter any way you please. But the majority experience in AA does seem to suggest. . ." Now, that attitude is far removed from central government, isn't it? We recognize that alcoholics can't be dictated to. . . individually or collectively.

At this junction we can hear a churchman exclaim, "They are making disobedience a virtue!" He is joined by a psychiatrist who says, "Defiant brats! They won't grow up and conform to social usage!" The man in the street says, "I don't understand it. They must be nuts!" But all these observers have overlooked something unique in Alcoholics Anonymous. Unless each AA member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. His drunkenness and dissolution are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they result from his personal disobedience to spiritual principles.

The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to AA's Twelve Traditions, the group too can deteriorate and die. So we of AA do obey spiritual principles, first because we must, and ultimately because we love the kind of life such obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are AA's disciplinarians; we need no others.

It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service; two concepts which are poles apart. It is in this spirit of service that we elect the AA's group informal rotating committee, the Intergroup Association for the area, and the General Service Conferences of Alcoholics Anonymous for AA as a whole. Even our Foundation, once an independent Board, is today directly accountable to our fellowship. Its trustees are the caretakers and expeditors of our world services.

Just as the aim of each AA member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the area's telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then AA as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken. AA has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service. . . a true fellowship. -Bill W. Reprinted with permission from the January 1953 Grapevine



## Emotional Sobriety

Tradition Nine is about giving up my need to control, about letting go of my fear of others. It's the lack of control over what they might or might not do that concerns me. If I trust the Traditions to be my guide on all matters having to do with the Fellowship, then I'll trust our trusted servants to serve us in the best way they can at this moment. That will never be perfect, but it will usually be good enough. A guy I know is always saying something like "Good is the enemy of the best" but there is another saying, from Voltaire, "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." As long as our trusted servants are not *really* messing up, I think we and A.A. will survive. I'll try not to worry that newcomers will drink and die because they see someone with human frailties, someone who is not perfect, leading a meeting or making the coffee. When I let go of that worry, my life is much more serene and easy because I don't have to be the director of everything. Letting go of control opens me to greater acceptance and tolerance. Instead of beating my friends up for not being perfect, I can love and accept them for who they are really. Therefore, Tradition Nine encourages several high spiritual principles. It frees me up take my own inventory while I let you serve our group. Nice concept.

In one of my home groups we have a rule. Sure, A.A. is not supposed to have rules but "it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us." So we do have a rule which we believe is necessary to our group functioning. The rule is this: In order to have a service position you have to be elected and you must have a desire to stop drinking. **We have no fear about this.** Maybe our treasurer will get drunk and run off with the money. Maybe the Secretary will come in drunk and need some help reading through the format. Maybe the coffee won't get made. Oh, the horror! But then, I guess that can happen in any group; no matter what the service requirements are. But "unless each AA member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. His drunkenness and dissolution are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they result from his personal disobedience to spiritual principles... Great suffering and great love are AA's disciplinarians; we need no others." [Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 174, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.](#)

The occasion to actually come face-to-face with this problem will hopefully be rare; but if it does, our group is ready. In this group we give our love to those who have a desire to stop drinking. Whenever a newcomer is present we invariably turn the meeting into a First Step meeting and share our experience, strength and hope on how we got through the first days of sobriety. We would do the same if our Secretary or coffee maker or treasurer came in drunk or, yes, high on drugs. We would gather round that person, share our experience strength and hope and welcome them back into the fold without punishment, humiliation or shame. We would give them any help they wanted to achieve sobriety.

I am mindful that this rule might not work in your group or at all levels of service but we have faith that we will endure and succeed in our recovery if we trust each other. If not, another experiment in A.A. will have been tried and new lessons will be learned. Next, maybe we will discuss a rule about the crosstalk.  
-Rich H.

**Note: 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 let go of resentments, fear, anger and self-pity. The book [Emotional Sobriety](#) is available for sale at Central Office.**



### **The Wall I Built**

I was sitting in a meeting in Kalama Park the other day looking toward the rock wall that was built some years ago to keep the ocean out. I remember reading that before they built the wall, Kalama Park had a beautiful beach, and that was a major attraction of the park. In the 1970's, they built a rock wall along the ocean side of the park to protect the park from erosion. Shortly after the wall was built, the beach disappeared.

Looking out at that wall, I remembered that during my drinking career I built my own wall, one boulder at a time, to protect myself from all the people and things I was afraid of. One of my greatest fears was that someone would find out how much I was drinking and try to stop me. This was an issue of survival for me—I couldn't imagine life without drinking.

As I put up barriers to keep the world out, I ended up destroying what made life worth living for me. In trying to keep out all the things I was afraid of, I eliminated all possibilities of friendship, love and joy. I felt dead inside.

My recovery in AA has been a slow process of rolling away those stones and letting in the ocean of healing love from people in the fellowship, and from my Higher Power. With a loving sponsor, I was able to take inventory, make amends, and rejoin the human race. I had a huge resistance to each Step, and my sponsor patiently guided me to walk through my fears to the freedom on the other side.

My life today has fewer barriers and more opportunities for love, joy and surprise. My fear is still there, but it radiates at a much lower level today. It is overpowered by my daily experience that I am being provided for by a Power greater than myself.

Before sobriety, I spent most of my life focusing on what was wrong with you, with me and with the world. Each morning before I get out of bed and each evening before I go to sleep, I do a mental gratitude list. Focusing on my blessings like this gives me a more balanced perspective of my life during the day. If something happens I don't like, it looks pretty small in comparison to all the things that are right. I am alive, I am healthy. I love people and I am loved. I have friends. My life is a miracle today. I am sober.

- Owen H.

MAUI INTERGROUP MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

-6:00pm Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer.

-Introductions were made with 16 members in attendance.

-Approval of last months Minutes

Steering Committee Report

-Dance and financial income was discussed. Discussion regarding the business debit card and fraudulent charges, solutions, resolution etc.

Treasurer Report

See report on pages 6 and 7

Melody and Rich informed the group about the theft of the business debit card number and answered questions and concerns. Stephanie (Intergroup Chair) has been in contact with the necessary parties to resolve this issue. According to Rich, the Bank Representative advised Stephanie that we are entitled to receive the money that was stolen from our account within a 90 day period.

Central Office Report

Calls 209, 12th Step calls 24, Books sold 123, Pamphlets sold 258 and there were 8245 hits on the website. It appears that the website is handling a lot of the load when people are looking for information. Suggestion was made by Rich that we consider finding a local Internet Carrier on the island to do business with versus the California Internet Carrier which we are now using.

Central Office needs one volunteer to work in the office. Please call Rich for details.

Moving forward, Rich will include the current Minutes in the current Serenity Gazette.

Literature well stocked, except hardcover Big Books, at the moment. More will be in in a couple weeks..

Old Business

Dinner and Dance was a success. Group discussion was made on doing another event. Suggestion was made to do just a dance and not a dinner to encourage more young people to participate, the fee for the event to members would be affordable and nominal. Tony F. suggested looking into the Maui Beach Hotel's banquet room for a dance venue.

Also, member suggestion to include more of a variety of music at the next dance.

Group discussed perhaps holding a Halloween Dance, New Years Eve Dance, and Valentines Day Dance.

New Business

Gratitude Night, Sunday Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> hosted by Upcountry Sunrise. Mexican Theme

Mini Conference Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Theresa's Church

Golf Tournament is in the works and more info should be coming soon.

District Reports

No Ka Oi District Report by DCM Clifford – August Area Budget Assembly went well. 2010 Hawaii Area operating budget was passed and our Area nominated a new Regional Trustee: Scot C. The next Area Assembly will be held on Oahu in January.

The No Ka Oi District had a surplus of funds and contributed \$250.00 to Intergroup for allowing the district use of coolers and supplies.

Next Hana Caravan is Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Paia Community Center. Also, there will be a campout the day before.

2010 International Convention website is up and registration is open. Next No Ka Oi District Meeting is October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Take Back to Groups

Central Office needs one more volunteer in the office. Contact Rich for more info.

Ask your groups for input regarding future dances and/or another dinner/dance.

Need group (s) to host Xmas and NY Alcahons.

Next Intergroup Meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 and Closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

**Self-seeking WILL slip away.**

**Many discover that happiness is a by-product of giving without demand for return.**

**MAUI A.A. INTERGROUP OF HAWAII**  
**Profit and Loss**  
**January through August, 2009**

	<u>Jan 09</u>	<u>Feb 09</u>	<u>Mar 09</u>	<u>Apr 09</u>	<u>May 09</u>	<u>Jun 09</u>	<u>Jul 09</u>	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>									
<b>Income</b>									
<b>Event Contributions</b>	432.33	0.00	573.51	0.00	0.00	355.00	0.00	4,848.00	6,208.84
<b>Group Contributions</b>	1,737.43	2,443.20	4,053.53	1,952.09	1,141.42	3,959.04	3,061.24	1,792.42	20,140.37
<b>Literature Sales</b>	509.15	618.35	643.95	251.15	801.35	519.20	680.75	1,272.95	5,296.85
<b>Total Income</b>	2,678.91	3,061.55	5,270.99	2,203.24	1,942.77	4,833.24	3,741.99	7,913.37	31,646.06
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>									
<b>Literature</b>	989.60	16.34	566.60	443.60	1,127.00	537.40	0.00	1,082.70	4,763.24
<b>Total COGS</b>	989.60	16.34	566.60	443.60	1,127.00	537.40	0.00	1,082.70	4,763.24
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,689.31	3,045.21	4,704.39	1,759.64	815.77	4,295.84	3,741.99	6,830.67	26,882.82
<b>Expense</b>									
<b>Event Related Expenses</b>									
<b>Facility Insurance</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
<b>Facility Rental</b>	100.00	50.00	100.00	106.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	356.25
<b>Food &amp; Beverage</b>	0.00	0.00	154.55	0.00	218.35	0.00	0.00	3,136.50	3,509.40
<b>General Supplies</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	19.00
<b>Total Event Related Expenses</b>	100.00	50.00	254.55	106.25	218.35	0.00	300.00	3,155.50	4,184.65
<b>Operations</b>									
<b>Bank Service Fees</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.50	0.00	36.00	5.00	0.00	46.50
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	275.84	275.84	275.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	827.52
<b>Insurance</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	325.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	325.00
<b>Liscenses &amp; Permits</b>	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50
<b>Office Rent</b>	0.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	3,675.00
<b>Outside Services</b>	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	1,631.57	1,576.57	1,674.54	7,827.53	951.13	2,777.89	1,919.24	1,919.24	20,277.71
<b>Postage</b>	112.00	21.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	182.00
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	0.00	108.21	0.00	108.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	216.42
<b>Supplies</b>	0.00	161.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161.33
<b>Telephone/Internet</b>	140.21	197.34	131.14	0.00	52.95	129.93	194.51	381.08	1,227.16
<b>Travel</b>	136.00	138.00	138.00	0.00	138.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	2,298.12	3,003.29	2,804.52	8,800.24	1,667.08	3,468.82	2,643.75	2,865.32	27,551.14
<b>Total Expense</b>	2,398.12	3,053.29	3,059.07	8,906.49	1,885.43	3,468.82	2,943.75	6,020.82	31,735.79
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-708.81	-8.08	1,645.32	-7,146.85	-1,069.66	827.02	798.24	809.85	-4,852.97
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>									
<b>Other Income</b>									
<b>Interest Income</b>	18.00	18.00	0.81	24.39	0.47	0.40	14.31	13.61	89.99
<b>Uncategorized Income</b>	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.00	0.00	111.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	88.00	18.00	0.81	24.39	0.47	0.40	55.31	13.61	200.99
<b>Other Expense</b>									
<b>Uncategorized Expense</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.00	1,417.47	1,412.47
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-5.00	1,417.47	1,412.47
<b>Net Other Income</b>	88.00	18.00	0.81	24.39	0.47	0.40	60.31	-1,403.86	-1,211.48
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-620.81</b>	<b>9.92</b>	<b>1,646.13</b>	<b>-7,122.46</b>	<b>-1,069.19</b>	<b>827.42</b>	<b>858.55</b>	<b>-594.01</b>	<b>-6,064.45</b>

<b>CONTRIBUTING GROUPS</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>2009 YTD</b>
<b>Anonymous Contributions</b>	\$320.00	\$957.75
Alana Ohana		\$210.00
Beach Reflections		\$14.00
Can Do Maui Mens Step Study		\$20.00
Can Do Mens Stag (Kihei Tue.nite)		\$90.00
Club 449		\$274.17
Coffee Break Ohana		\$350.00
Dawn Patrol		\$325.50
Food For Thought		\$227.39
Fri Nite Young People Kihei	\$24.00	\$46.00
Friday Gay & Lesbian Big Book	\$39.00	\$78.07
Haiku Hang Loose Group		\$100.00
Happy Hour Group	\$532.14	\$3,503.55
High In The Sky - Kula		\$588.29
Intergroup - Monthly Meeting		\$206.50
Just Do It		\$101.50
Kahana Spinners		\$100.00
Kihei Beach Group	\$70.00	\$330.00
Kihei Morning Serenity	\$148.04	\$830.88
Kihei Womens 12&12 Step Study		\$250.00
Ladies Night - Lahaina Thursday		\$22.50
Lahaina Big Book Study		\$80.00
Lahaina Whalers Meeting		\$50.00
Living Sober		\$75.00
Manae Serenity, East Molokai		\$10.00
Monday Night Womens Mtg. Kah.		\$55.00
Monday Nite Big Book Kihei		\$140.00
Night Owls		\$66.00
Ohana Group		\$1,350.00
On Awakening		\$437.20
Over the Rainbow		\$70.00
Paki Maui Group		\$650.00
Paniolo Group		\$416.00
Pau Hana (Kahului)		\$148.00
Primary Purpose		\$2,350.00
S. A. M. Meeting		\$200.00
Sober And Crazy	\$136.00	\$1,092.32
Step Sisters		\$32.00
Sunday Sunset Feelings		\$183.96
Tuesday Kihei Beginners Group		\$60.00
Upcountry Speakers (Fri Nite)	\$45.00	\$220.00
Upcountry Sunrise	\$285.80	\$2,435.00
Upcountry Sunset		\$150.00
VW Vagabond Belladonna BYOBB		\$10.00
Wailuku Group	\$37.42	\$292.83
Wailuku Saturday Speakers	\$72.70	\$371.70
We Agnostics	\$82.32	\$584.22
Womens AA Way of Life		\$95.00
<b>MONTHLY TOTAL</b>	\$1,792.42	\$19,292.58
	<b>2008 YTD</b>	<b>\$16,710.43</b>

**MAUI A.A. INTERGROUP OF HAWAII**  
Balance Sheet

<b>As of September, 2009</b>	<b>Sep 9, 09</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
<b>AA Operating Account</b>	107.11
<b>CPB-Prudent Reserve</b>	10,164.32
<b>Literature Account</b>	527.50
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>10,798.93</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	10,798.93
<b>Other Assets</b>	
<b>Security Deposits Asset</b>	300.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>300.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>11,098.93</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Back Payroll Taxes</b>	1,227.83
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,227.83</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,227.83</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,227.83
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	16,682.61
<b>Net Income</b>	-6,811.51
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>9,871.10</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>11,098.93</b>

Thank You for your  
generous support.  
Without your  
contributions,  
Central Office  
cannot exist  
to serve alcoholics  
in Maui County.



# GRATITUDE NIGHT

Gratitude Night was so great. Upcountry Sunrise is to be commended for their outstanding work in making this event once again a great community builder as well as helpful financially to Maui's Intergroup and our General Service Office.

The Mexican food was plentiful and delicious; thanks to those that brought desserts! Abby and her daughter's aerial performances were spectacular! Thank you to our speakers Nikki and Nante. Musicians were Bob, Brother Larry, Steve and even Bill sang a couple songs! All the people on the Host Committee worked their tails off. We are not going to name them here only because we might leave someone out and we don't want to do that. The clean-up crew stayed late and left the place spotless! It was a blast. A big mahalo to all who made it happen and all who joined in the fun!

Generous contributions of \$1370 for Intergroup and \$408 for GSO reflect Maui's continuous financial support to carrying the message of A.A.

-Mare L., Intergroup Co-Chair



It was very special to have an Upcountry member performing this act for us right there in the Pukalani Community Center. She was breathtakingly spectacular!

Dear Sponsor Sam,  
*Does alcohol really impair your judgment or does it simply augment your perception to such an extent that those who are sober simply can not understand it? I mean, like, it allows me to put a lampshade on my head and feel good about it.*  
Sincerely, -Rum Raisin



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



**A.A. Rx**

**Tolerance  
Is the antidote  
for Intolerance.**

## I SWEAR

When did it become so widely acceptable to freely use profanity in AA meetings? I swear I have never heard so much cussing and swearing in my 18 years around this fellowship. I was listening to a share recently at my home group (FNYP) and I was so distracted by the speakers use of the F- word I started counting how many times he said it. More than 63 times!!! Another young lady held my attention as she shared and all of the sudden, BANG, here comes the F-Bombs and more. She was no longer all that attractive and the message she was trying to convey was lost for me. Not to mention that this meeting takes place in a religious institution. Its not mine but it is someone's place of worship and quite often other people and groups are on the property and our meeting has open doors and windows. We respect the church by not smoking on the property and cleaning up after ourselves so maybe we should consider that profanity is offensive to some people and could also jeopardize the safety of our meeting place and not swear out of respect for the meeting facility.

For me personally, I work very hard at not using profanity in meetings and outside in the real world. For me it is part of my spiritual growth and changing old behaviors. After all, you taught me that nothing changes if nothing changes.

Another experience I had a couple of weeks ago at the Sunday Sunset Feelings meeting was that, the speaker that evening, a young woman with just over a year sober, started her share by saying "I am going to try very hard not to swear tonight because its something I am working hard on trying to change" and I am happy to say she shared a wonderful profanity free message of experience, strength and hope. Thank you so much J. I have been to meetings around this country and at some meetings it is asked that we not use profanity and I have seen signs posted in meetings stating "NO PROFANITY". I will continue to do my part and ask that all of us make a conscious effort to make our points and carry the message without the use of foul language. In love and service, - Glenn S. Kihei



### **First Annual Bill's Dine and Dance**

was a huge success! A total of 122 people dined and danced the night away at the Maui tropical Plantation. Everyone looked like they were having a great time and the dance floor filled up in no time at all. Pretty much everyone there must have been wearing their dancing shoes and their smiley faces!

It was also a BIG financial success, contributing more than \$1700 to Intergroup/Central Office.

#### 2009 Intergroup Sponsored Events

Date	Event	Group Hosting Event
<b>Coming Soon!</b>	<a href="#">Central Office Golf Tournament</a> <a href="#">Wailea Blue Course</a>	Tom & Bill
Nov 3 Tues	Maui Mini-Conference St Theresa's Church Coffee & Speakers 6-9:pm	Primary Purpose
Nov 26 & 27 Wed & Thur	Thanksgiving Alcathon Cameron Center November 25, Noon to November 26, 5:00 p.m. Dinner 2pm on Thurs., Nov 27	Kihei Morning Serenity
Dec 24 Thur & Fri	Christmas Alcathon Cameron Center December 24 at Noon to Dec. 25 at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 2pm on 12/25	-----
Dec 31 Thur & Fri	New Year's Alcathon Cameron Center December 31 at Noon to Jan 1 Dinner at 2pm Fri	-----

**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.**

**New Meeting  
TO THINE OWN  
SELF BE TRUE**  
Monday thru Saturday  
at 7 AM  
at the Kihei Bridge Center,  
131 S. Kihei Rd., Kihei.

**Expanded Meeting  
We Agnostics**  
has a new meeting  
on Tuesday nights at the  
Kihei Community Center in  
the room next to the DMV.  
Meeting starts at 7 PM and  
is a Step study.

**SUNDAY,  
September 27th**  
**Hana Caravan starts at**  
PAIA COMMUNITY CENTER  
Leave for Hana at 1:30pm  
Meet at Wananalua Church  
POTLUCK DINNER - 4:30pm  
AA Meeting - 5:30pm - 7p.m  
Contact: Clifford S. at  
385.2183  
for more information  
A Service Function of  
**No Ka Oi District 5**

Aloha, all -  
A token bid from Maui to host HICYPAA (Hawaiian Islands Conference of Young People in A.A.) XV in the Spring or fall of 2010 has been awarded the conference.  
The next step in this process is to hold elections to form the new Host Committee.  
Elections will be held on Sunday, October 18 at Baldwin Beach Park in Pa'ia. The elections will start around 1 PM. Pot luck before, starting whenever it starts.  
This location has been chosen specifically with the intent of making this whole process more accessible to members in Hana and Upcountry.  
Please pass the word around. Any questions? Keith K 808.874.0711



SUNRISE  
Photo by Angie B. from the  
MICYPAA Campout at  
Keanae in August 2009.

...the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and not more.

**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](http://www.aamaui.org)  
Email: [info@aamaui.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. 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](http://www.OahuCentralOffice.com)  
Kaua'i AA (808) 245-6677  
[www.hconv.org/kauai/kauaiaa](http://www.hconv.org/kauai/kauaiaa)  
Moloka'i & Lana'i AA  
(808) 244-9673  
[www.aamaui.org](http://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!**