

March 2016

# Garden Island Sobriety

'Step Three'

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”



**He said:** Honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness is known as the “HOW” of the AA program. These three virtues, as I have come to think of them, were in short supply when I thought I was still in control of my problems...problems that I had come to identify as *me*. Was I really ready to let go of my grosser handicaps, and let someone or something greater than myself take away these problems, possibly losing myself in the process?

**Willingness, as the 12 & 12** suggests, is the only key needed to a faith that works. The 3rd step is where a decision had to be made, and once decided, followed up with vigorous action. That sounded like a lot of work. I would rather debate ad nauseum the pros and cons of a God that hasn't worked for countless others and that I could judge as having no personal interest in my affairs as well. That old idea stuck with me for a good while until I finally surrendered to the impossibility of having a closed mind, unable to comprehend a reality without solutions. I had to give up on the God of self-justification, “playing God” as it is also known, and begin a relationship with a power greater than myself that I could conceive of as a loving God of my own understanding.

**It didn't come easy** at first. Loving or not, I wasn't ready to hand over control to anyone or anything. If you were like me, and stuck on this step, it was because I was still not convinced that my life was totally unmanageable. Going back to the 1st step, I found that I still had reservations that kept me from being completely willing to try a new way. The Big Book says on pg. 63 that “we had a new employer. Being all powerful, he provided what we needed, *if* we kept close to Him and performed His work well.” Reading that page, it struck me that I was in the bondage of *self*, even without alcohol. The old timers

(Cont. p. 2)



**She said:** I regularly attend a meeting that focuses – every Saturday night from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Koloa Library meeting room – on the Third Step.

**I love this meeting.** Every week we read the same passage – from “Our description of the alcoholic...” on page 60 of *Alcoholics Anonymous* to “...So we had to get down to causes and conditions” on page 64. Every week. Everything in between is about – you guessed it! – the Third Step.

**Part of what** makes this meeting attractive to me is that I am reminded – over and over – that I am not the only alcoholic on the planet who repeatedly takes back her will. We all do it. In my opinion, those who imagine they only take the Third Step once are doing just that: imagining.

**Something about being** human involves having self-will. And, as this handful of pages notes: “The alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so.”

**I remember well** the first time I really noticed these pages. I came to my then-sponsor in Tennessee, sometime in my first year of sobriety, with some terrible problem (which I cannot now remember). It probably had to do with someone else not doing what I thought was “right.”

**Strangely, my sponsor** got out her *Big Book*, opened it to page 60 and asked me to start reading out loud. By the time I got to “Selfishness – self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles,” I wasn't liking it very much.

**There wasn't anything** in here about the other guy straightening up and flying right. It was all about realizing “I can't, God can,” and letting my Higher Power be my guide, my director, “my new employer.”

**Wow. I think** this was the first time I got it that the person writing my paychecks wasn't my real boss.

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**AA Hotline 245-6677**

**He Said:** (cont.) in the rooms of AA repeatedly told me that if I didn't know how to be willing, pray for the willingness to be willing. I can honestly say that prayer has given me a new direction in life, one that was unavailable when I was running the show to suit myself. Willingness really is the spiritual key to a self-imposed door towards a new life infinitely better than what I could have imagined.

~ D., Kauai

**She Said:** (cont.) **Having grown up** with a father who was an active alcoholic and addict as well as the pastor of a church, I was preloaded to think of turning my will and my life over to a "father" figure, or what I perceived as a "traditional" concept of God, with rebellion.

**I have grown** in my understanding of my Higher Power, slowly over many years of prayer, meditation, listening at meetings, book studies, reading our literature and living my life.

**I now have** no problem using a male pronoun, or even the word "Father" in connection with this spiritual force in the universe that I believe wants me moving in a positive direction. I am also fine with calling this loving energy "Mother," or "Great Creator." To me, my Higher Power, or the Higher Power, or God, is so much greater, deeper, wider and more fantastically powerful that any word I or any other human can call it.

**To me,** it doesn't matter what I call this loving entity – just that I call it, connect to it, invite it into my life. For me, the Third Step Prayer on page 63, does that very, very well.

-Diana L., Kaua'i

# Happy Birthday

|             |      |      |        |
|-------------|------|------|--------|
| Lucky       | 2/10 | 1981 | 35 yrs |
| Billy A.    | 2/14 | 1982 | 34 yrs |
| Sheila      | 9/13 | 1982 | 34 yrs |
| John P.     | 2/5  | 1984 | 32 yrs |
| Denise      | 2/18 | 1984 | 32 yrs |
| Fran M.     | 2/14 | 1986 | 30 yrs |
| Gabrielle   | 9/10 | 1987 | 29 yrs |
| Karen L.    | 9/19 | 1989 | 27 yrs |
| Jack M.     | 9/22 | 1994 | 22 yrs |
| Annie B.    | 2/15 | 1998 | 18 yrs |
| Dana W.     | 9/22 | 2000 | 16 yrs |
| Jeff S.     | 2/14 | 2002 | 14 yrs |
| Bill S.     | 2/2  | 2004 | 11 yrs |
| Janice M.   | 2/5  | 2005 | 10 yrs |
| Susan C.    | 2/24 | 2007 | 9 yrs  |
| Arthur D.   | 2/1  | 2008 | 8 yrs  |
| Brittni     | 2/5  | 2008 | 8 yrs  |
| Laura L.    | 2/14 | 2008 | 8 yrs  |
| Pat C.      | 2/16 | 2008 | 8 yrs  |
| Mark A.     | 2/29 | 2008 | 8 yrs  |
| Susan O.    | 2/2  | 2009 | 7 yrs  |
| David A.    | 2/23 | 2009 | 7 yrs  |
| Kirt        | 2/4  | 2009 | 7 yrs  |
| Matt L.     | 2/24 | 2009 | 7 yrs  |
| Christopher | 2/19 | 2010 | 6 yrs  |
| Jami K.     | 2/22 | 2010 | 6 yrs  |
| George K.   | 2/22 | 2010 | 6 yrs  |
| Alysson     | 2/26 | 2011 | 5 yrs  |
| David A.    | 2/23 | 2011 | 5 yrs  |
| Taylor      | 2/17 | 2012 | 4 yrs  |
| Bronson B.  | 2/1  | 2012 | 4 yrs  |
| Lion H.     | 2/10 | 2012 | 4 yrs  |
| Karen F.    | 2/2  | 2013 | 3 yrs  |
| Alison T.   | 9/13 | 2013 | 3 yrs  |

**Congratulations Everyone!!**

## Birthday Celebrations

### West Side

- **Ala i ke Ola Hou, Waimea Cyn. Group** - 5:30 pm  
Last Friday of the month, Kekaha-MacArthur Park  
VOLLEYBALL, CAKE & BBQ POTLUCK.

### South Shore

- **Koloa Monday Women's** - 5:00 p.m., Koloa Library,  
Last Monday of the month. **CAKE & POTLUCK**
- **Aloha Group** - 7:30 p.m., Koloa Union Church, last  
Tuesday of the month - **CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!**

### East Side

- **Hui Ohana** - 7:00-8:00 am Last Saturday of the  
month. **CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!**
- **Steps to Freedom** - 6:30 pm Last Monday of the  
month. **CAKE & POTLUCK** (7:30 pm meeting).

### North Shore

- **North Shore Aloha Group** - 7:30 pm Last Monday  
of the month - **CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!**
- **Princeville-Hanalei Group** - 7:30 pm Last  
Thursday of the Month - **CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!**

# A.A. Activities



## The Happy Hour Cookout

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm

### At Nawiliwili Beach Park

Cookout & Games. Meeting is a 5:00 pm



## WCG at Kekaha-MacArthur Park

This Month on March 25<sup>th</sup>

### 5:30pm Meeting then Birthday Potluck

Every last Friday (bring good food!)

Volleyball, Swimming, Good Fellowship, Fun, Sunset



## AA Potluck in Hanalei

This month March 27<sup>th</sup>

### At "Bathrooms" Beach Picnic Tables

Last Sunday of every month, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



## Steps to Freedom Birthdays

This Month March 28<sup>th</sup>

### 6:45pm, At Kapa'a United Church of Christ

1315 Ulu Street, Kapaa, Speaker Meeting 7:30pm



## Came to Believe - Pizza Night

This Month March 30<sup>th</sup>

### 6:00pm at Saint Michael's Church Lihue

Every last Wednesday of the Month

# A.A. Meeting Places



## Christ Memorial Parish Hall

2518 Kolo Rd., Kilauea

- Monday 7:30 pm - Speaker/Discussion
- Tuesday 10:00 am - Big Book Study
- Tuesday 7:30 pm - Beginners Meeting
- Wednesday 7:30 pm - 12 x 12 Candlelight

## Kauai Round-up 2016

June 17-19, Kumu Camp, Anahola Beach Park

"Our message is hope, the promise is freedom"

The Registration Flyer is at

<http://www.kauaiaa.org/calendar2.html>

## Monday Meditation Meeting

At The Kapa'a First Hawaiian Church  
is Starting up again!!!

NOW meeting at NOON instead of 11:15

## The Waimea Canyon Group:

WCG Meetings have moved back to KVMH, Meeting in Conference Rooms A & B, except on the 2nd Monday of each month meeting in Conf Room C. The West Side "Last Friday" Birthday Bash will still be held at Kekaha-MacArthur Park.



# AA Archives

## February in Our History:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**From 'Big Book Dave', Elected Archivist, Interior Alaska**  
~ Submitted by Mathea A.

 **OUR THANKS to B.B. Dave & Mathea A.**

## Concept 'Three' for World Service

**"To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision."**

**As background for this Concept**, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. Except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service — has the right "to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises." That is, they can "decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions."

**This is "the essence of 'The Right of Decision.'**" But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its "trusted servants." If the groups *instruct* their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the area conference is hamstrung.

**As Bill points out**, "our Conference delegates are *primarily* the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time."

**Bill warns against** using "The Right of Decision" as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes: "Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other."

~ In Love and Service  
**Ron L.**

# Kauai Intergroup

The Next Intergroup Meeting:  
 March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am  
 The Lihue Neighborhood Center

## Intergroup Treasurers Report

January 2016

### Income:

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Niumalu Christmas - 7th   | 50.00         |
| District - Rack           | 38.00         |
| Poipu - 7th               | 100.00        |
| Hanalei/Princeville - 7th | 320.00        |
| Convention - Books        | 26.00         |
| Aloha North Shore - 7th   | 350.00        |
| 369085 - 7th              | 35.00         |
| <b>Total Income</b>       | <b>919.00</b> |

### Expenses:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Guardian Storage -Locker | 135.42        |
| Hawaiian Telcom          | 25.54         |
| Ink Spot - G.I.S         | 150.00        |
| Niumalu Christmas        | 43.70         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>    | <b>354.66</b> |

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| January Balance      | 1840.36 |
| Total from Above     | 564.34  |
| Balance              | 2404.70 |
| Less Prudent Reserve | -900.00 |
| Final Balance        | 1504.70 |

~ Report prepared by Tom R. ~

### SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i Intergroup  
 P.O. Box 3606  
 Lihue, HI 96766



# Kauaiaa.org Visit Our Website!

## ■ Kauai A.A. Meeting Schedule

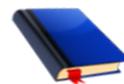


Compact 2-pg schedule  
 --prints on legal-size 8½x14"

## ■ Kauai A.A. Events Calendar

## ■ Link to HI Island AA websites

Contact: [website.intergroup@gmail.com](mailto:website.intergroup@gmail.com)



## Need Literature?

### ➤ Get It At The Intergroup Meeting!

\*Books\*Pamphlets\*GIS Newsletter\*Meeting Schedules

### ➤ Or We Can Deliver It To You!

Call the AA Hotline with Your Request at: **245-6677**

## Intergroup Officers:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Chair:        | Susan ON.    |
| Alt. Chair:   | Mike C.      |
| Treasurer:    | Tommy R.     |
| Secretary:    | Christian    |
| Literature:   | Bob B.       |
| Hotline:      | Gabrielle    |
| Events Chair: | Alejandro H. |

## Request a newsletter



by e-mail



Contact: [District6newsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:District6newsletter@hotmail.com)

Editor: Linda B.

# District 6, Kauai:

The Next District Meeting:  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am  
The Lihue Neighborhood Center

## District 6 Treasurer's Report

**February 20, 2016**

### Group Contributions:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Step Sisters                | 13.00        |
| North Shore Aloha           | 50.00        |
| <b>Total Income Groups:</b> | <b>63.00</b> |

### Expenses:

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| PO Box Fee                     | 106.00        |
| DCM reg. Oahu Assembly         | 25.00         |
| DCM Travel PRAASA              | 658.00        |
| Printer for Treasurer          | 95.00         |
| <b>Total Expenses January:</b> | <b>884.00</b> |

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>BANK BALANCE:</b>   | <b>3612.09</b>  |
| <b>PRUDENT RESERVE</b> | <b>1,000.00</b> |

~ Report prepared by Steve Q. ~

### SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i District Committee  
P.O. Box 1503  
Kapa'a, HI 96746

## Find A.A. in Hawaii



## Send Area Contributions

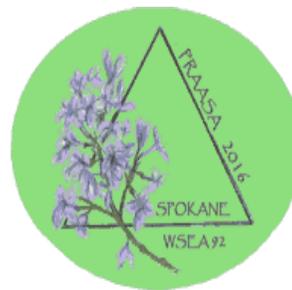
### ADDRESS IT EXACTLY LIKE THIS:

Hawaii Area Committee  
1253 S. Beretania St., #2107  
Honolulu, HI 96814-1822



## District 6 Committee:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| DCM:       | Jonathan D.   |
| Alt. DCM:  | <a href="mailto:AltDCM@aakauai.org">AltDCM@aakauai.org</a> Ann W. |
| Secretary: | Susan OK.   |
| Treasurer: | Steve Q.  |



## PRAASA REPORT BACK

**SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016**  
**10 AM – 11:30 AM**  
**LIHUE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

Come and hear the impressions from those who attended this year's PRAASA, including your DCM, GSR's and others interested in this year's General Service Conference and other issues facing AA as a whole. Light snacks and beverages will be available.

Try An  
**Attitude of Gratitude**