

March 2011

# 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:** When I finally made it to AA and was introduced to the Big Book and the Steps, I was instructed to read through from the beginning and to stop at the end of the paragraph that begins - *Being convinced*. I did what I was told and was able to concede on a lot of the points made in the previous chapters, but still was a little shaky on the God idea.

I believed I would have to begin living like some of those "church-going folks" in order to live a godly life. I was sure that it would not be possible for me to accomplish this, nor did I want to.

Early in my sobriety I had the opportunity to go to a meeting somewhere in LA that had a copy of the original manuscript from chapter 5, *How It Works*, in a glass frame. I read it and what stuck with me was that instead of saying rarely, it said never, and then it said "having read this far if you are not convinced, reread the book or throw it away."

That is one heck of a statement. It made me seriously reconsider the prospect of getting busy with the steps, honestly and vigorously. The 12x12 states that the effectiveness of the whole program rests on how well and earnestly this step is performed. Why is that???

When I was in charge of my life and doing as I pleased, whenever I pleased, there was a lot of chaos, confusion and destruction. I was aware of the mess I was making and deluded myself with empty promises of making it better as soon as all my ducks were in a row. The only problem with that was those darned ducks keep running all over the place; it was hard to keep track of them.

Only when I came to the realization, with the aid of a sponsor, that maybe I should be held accountable to someone or something else and take responsibility for my actions, did I become willing to take Step 3.

Willingness to take this step has proven to be the keystone of the new and triumphant (continued page. 2)



**She said:** The most notable thing I saw when I reread/reviewed the Step 3 text in both my Big Book and 12 X 12 is the fact that everywhere that "God" is referred to as "He," "Him," or "His," I had crossed out the masculine pronoun and penned in "God" or "God's" in its place.

The males in my family of origin, my father and my brother respectively, abused and exploited me so I have a few problems with God, as a "male," being trustworthy. I am so grateful that in AA it is "God as I (we) understand God." Personally, I don't believe that God needs a gender. That being said, I do trust and rely on God as I understand God.

This step says that (we) "made a decision..." I found myself dreaming about writing on this step and what came up was the Spanish language in which the preterit tense signifies action in the past that was one time, completed, done—like "made a decision" whereas the imperfect tense refers to action that is ongoing as in "to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him (sic)." Actually, these tenses are pretty much the same in English, but they came to me as Spanish grammar in the dream.

So, what's the point?! Well, the point is that I think it's perfect that the imperfect tense applies to actions that are not completed since the 12 X 12 states (on p. 40) that "Nothing short of continuous action upon these (the steps) as a way of life can bring the much-desired result." and "All of the Twelve Steps require sustained and personal exertion to conform to their principles and so, we trust, to God's will."

Personally, I have always been fond of projects that can be completed—nice neat projects, start, work through, finish. Next!

But this program doesn't work that way so I am having to stretch myself to learn to practice the ongoing maintenance of my spiritual condition, my connection with my Higher Power (continued page. 2)

arch through which I passed to freedom. That is the keyword. Today I am free from the bondage of my alcoholic mind, one day at a time, as long as I trust that God has the best possible plan for the new life he has graced me with.

If you would like to have a birthday published or corrected in the Garden Island Sobriety newsletter Please contact us: [District6newsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:District6newsletter@hotmail.com)



## **PRAASA 2011 In Hawaii**

**March 4 - 6, 2011, In Honolulu**  
**At the Ala Moana Hotel**



**Online Registration has closed. On-site registrations available Friday March 4, 2011, starting at 8:00 AM.**

**PRAASA** - the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly - is a yearly assembly held in different parts of the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**The purpose of PRAASA** is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of A.A. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service legacies of A.A. This year it is in Hawaii!

**For more information visit** [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org)

## **Inform The Delegate Assembly**



**Held on Kauai**  
**April 9 – 10, 2011**

The Inform The Delegate Assembly will be held here on Kauai, April 9-10, 2011, at The Lihue Neighborhood Center, 3353 Eono St., Lihue.



## **Big Island Bash**

**Speakers Convention**

**April 15-17, 2011**

The 23rd Annual Big Island Bash will be held at the magnificent **Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort and Spa**. For more information about Registration, Schedule of Events and Accommodations go to:

[www.bigislandbash.com](http://www.bigislandbash.com)



## **Traditions Checklist**

**From The A.A. GRAPEVINE**

### **Tradition Three**

**The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?



## 2011 Kauai Roundup

We are still planning for the 2011 Kauai Roundup. To volunteer help contact Alejandro at 652-3128 or [hernandea040@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hernandea040@hawaii.rr.com).



**Request a newsletter**

**by e-mail**

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



## A.A. Meeting Places

### **Lydgate Park 'Big Pond'**



### **A.A. Meetings at Lydgate Pond:**

#### **"The Young Peoples Water Meeting"**

Held *every second Sunday* at 1:00 am at Lydgate Park Pond. Bring a flotation device. Look for our circle! A BBQ /POTLUCK starts at 11:00 am.

#### **"The 12 Concepts, A Book Study"**

Held *every second Sunday* at 11:30 am at Lydgate Park Pond, before the water meeting. Everybody is invited. Bring your "AA Service Manual." This study is sponsored by District 6. Questions call 652-3128



## A.A. Meetings

### **The Fourth Dimension**

The Full Moon and Birthday Celebration, a monthly event, will be held this month on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please come at 7:00 pm (before the 7:30 meeting) to the United Church in Kapaa (1315 Ulu St.).

**Hot dogs will be provided. Bring your buns!**

### **A New 12 & 12 Meeting (CLOSED)**

This meets on Sunday, 12:00 pm, at the Lihue Neighborhood Center (3353 Eono St.). For more information contact Henry (808) 245-3604.



## Bedside Matters

**My name** is Jim and I'm serving as the Hospitals Chair for Panel 61. For reasons included in a lower paragraph, I'm writing this article as a first thrust at increasing communication within our fellowship about this work.

**At the Orientation** Assembly a committee was created to help "co-ordinate the service work of A.A. groups and individuals who carry the message to alcoholics in hospitals and medical clinics." The discussion among the six of us was exciting and revealed a broad range of activities across the islands. In Kona, for example, there is a meeting in the hospital which has been existent for fifteen years and nurses on most wards are aware of it! In other places we are just beginning to develop mechanisms for getting literature into waiting rooms.

**Similarly, some groups** are highly responsive to a hospital near their meeting spots and other hospitals have no particular group claiming responsibility for activity there.

**Because of these** broad ranges of organization and activity, we chose two objectives for this panel's focus in carrying the message to hospitalized alcoholics: (1) improving communication between Central offices/Intergroups and those doing the work in medical facilities, and (2) improving communication between the local groups and the hospitals they serve.



At this point we assume there will be significant overlap with CPC and CEC committees as well as PI and Grapevine activity.

Personally, I will make every effort to maintain this column under this heading throughout the panel and I encourage anyone interested to contact me at [hospitals@area17aa.org](mailto:hospitals@area17aa.org).

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

## Kauai Intergroup

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

### From The Chair:

Aloha All,

The results of the Intergroup Priorities Poll are in and it is my pleasure to announce these results to those of you who could not attend last month and those groups who unfortunately do not have representation.

The results are in order of most important to least:

1. Hotline
2. Schedules
3. Information Exchange
4. AA Literature
5. Organization of AA Events

### Find A.A. in Hawaii

As chairperson to coordinate the many volunteers who

[www.area17aa.org](http://www.area17aa.org)

quietly do the work. Please attend our next meeting if your talent could be put to use.

**Knowing now what** our priorities are, it is time to tackle some of our unfinished organizing;

- ❖ The Hotline is creating a new 12<sup>th</sup> step call list as well as seeking alternates for Hotline volunteers. This is the core of our primary purpose and requires some AA experience.
- ❖ Susan Ok, our secretary, and I are working on an Intergroup Contact List. This list would include at least four representatives of your group, preferably IGR, GSR, Secretary and Coffee Maker. In addition to Intergroup getting a hold of your group, these numbers would also be available to Hotline operators in case of questions about meeting times or location changes and also to alert you to the possibility of a caller attending your meeting so that you can welcome them.
- ❖ We would like to encourage each group to get a home-group based email address for correspondence from Area, District and Intergroup. This will allow for greater personal anonymity in internet correspondence as well as easing the transition to a paperless office.
- ❖ Due to our current growth in scheduled meetings (yay!) we are asking each group to consider ways of shortening their schedule listing so that all of our meetings continue to fit on one page.

**Regarding the bylaws** I have asked each group to make a list of routine decisions they feel comfortable allowing the steering committee to make without an informed group conscience. This month I would like you to consider whether or not we need a required amount of sober time to be a committee leader. If you have any concerns about the bylaws please consult your IGR. I hope to have the bylaws signed at our meeting in April.

**Finally, I would** like to thank all of the IGRs that have participated so patiently and gracefully as we have tackled enormous agendas at breakneck speed. I truly appreciate the dedication you have shown to representing your groups while practicing the principals of AA and living the spirit of our 12 traditions in our meetings. It is your devotion to service that keeps our fellowship united.

In Service, ~ Lu

**We Need Hotline Volunteers** to answer phones in a regular weekly slot or as alternates to fill in for others on vacation. If you would like to volunteer as either a regular or an alternate please contact Damione: [hotline.kauai@gmail.com](mailto:hotline.kauai@gmail.com) or 247-6677.

~ Prepared by Mike C.

## SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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



## Our Intergroup Officers:

Chair: Lu A. [chair.intergroup@gmail.com](mailto:chair.intergroup@gmail.com)  
 Alt. Chair: Bob B. 245-3680  
 Treasurer: Mike C. 639-2579  
 Secretary: Susan Ok. [secretary.intergroup@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.intergroup@gmail.com)  
 Literature: Danette M.  
 Alt. Lit.: Mark M.  
 Hotline: Damione [hotline.kauai@gmail.com](mailto:hotline.kauai@gmail.com)  
 Events: Christopher K. 212-6009  
 GIS Editor: Linda B. [District6newsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:District6newsletter@hotmail.com)

## Intergroup Treasurers Report

JANUARY 2011

Income:	
3/11 Sunday Koloa	\$ 100.00
Step Sisters	\$ 78.79
Happy Hour	\$ 145.04
Sunrise Sobriety Books	\$ 221.50
Christmas 7 <sup>th</sup> Tradition adjustment	\$ 7.00
Princeville/Hanalei	\$ 40.00
North Shore Aloha Groups	\$ 243.00
Refund Lihue United Church (Thankathon)	\$ 65.00
Donation for 2010 from AA member	\$1000.00
Koloa Aloha Group	\$ 50.00
Sobriety in Paradise Koloa	\$ 60.00
Na-Wahine Ku Pono	\$ 70.00
Thursday Step Study Koloa	\$ 42.00
Expenses:	
Hawaiian Telcom	\$ 95.75
Guardian Self Storage rent	\$ 93.75
Mark reimburse Book order	\$ 312.50
Susan O. reimburse Christmas expense	\$ 102.98
Ink Spot printing GIS	\$ 150.00
Balance	\$1870.29
Prudent Reserve (for storage and phone):	\$-200.00
<b>Available Funds:</b>	<b>\$1670.29</b>

## Got Literature?

**We Deliver!**



We have A.A. Books & Pamphlets,  
The Garden Island Sobriety Newsletter  
And Kauai AA Meeting Schedules available!

## Send Area Contributions

ADDRESS IT EXACTLY LIKE THIS:

Hawaii Area Committee  
#2107  
575 Cooke St., Suite A  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Please include "District 6" & Group Name on ck

## Service is Sobriety

Our Area 17  Delegate is  
Linda McD.

[delegate@area17aa.org](mailto:delegate@area17aa.org)

## District 6, Kauai:

Next District Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>,  
9:30 am, at 3146 Akahi St., Lihue

**The "Inform The Delegate Assembly** will be held here on Kauai on April 9 - 10, 2011, at The Lihu'e Neighborhood Center, 3353 Eono St., Lihue.

**Please Join Us In Service.**

We will need to feed our visitors 5 meals while they are here. Groups are asked to volunteer by preparing a meal. We also need volunteers to provide transportation to and from the airport and volunteers to provide them with a 'Homestay' for one night. For more information contact: [hernandea040@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hernandea040@hawaii.rr.com).

~ Alejandro H.

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

**Kaua'i District Committee**

**PO Box 1503, Kapa'a, HI 96746**

Please include "District 6" & "Group Name" on ck

