

December 2010

Garden Island Sobriety

'Step Twelve'

“Having had a spiritual awakening, as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”



She said: Luciano De Crescenzo wrote a poignant description of the human condition; “We are each an angel with only one wing, and can only fly while embracing each other”. Step 12 invites us to participate in the mystical circuit arising between God, our fellows, and ourselves. Bill’s epiphany regarding the necessity to find someone to help instead of demanding someone help him, laid the groundwork for the roots of our program. Doctor Bob later wrote, “The spiritual approach was as useless as any other if you soaked it up like a sponge and kept it to yourself”. The “way out” of unworkable relations and the excessive self concentration that are the hallmarks of active alcoholism is to bumble through the maze of life with the realization that our greatest need is to love; not to BE loved. When we act in accordance with our true nature we live usefully and experience joy and serenity as a byproduct, not a reward.

The brilliance of Step 12 becomes apparent through the distinction of allowing us to embrace a “spirituality of imperfection” as opposed to trying to reach a finish line. We are called to set forth “trudging the road of happy destiny” by TRYING and PRACTICING. We try to share the good news about the solution and we practice the principles in all our affairs. The grace to perform detached, selfless action requires letting go of our false dependencies. In case you’re wondering what your false dependencies might be, the step itself will reveal them to you. We can’t learn to be an unclogged channel until humility molds us, and only then through our willingness to be the person we are, rather than who we may wish to be. Self-acceptance and the cultivation of self-love through spiritually authentic action are the dynamics that will allow us to transcend symbiotic attachment in favor of mutuality. Bill wrote, “I could not avail myself of God’s love until I was able to offer it back to Him by loving others as He would have me.” Addiction to approval, attention, and (continued p. 2)



He said: Wow, here we are, 2010 has almost gone by. Twelve steps in twelve months and it has been a pleasure to share with you this year. Thanks for helping me to stay sober. And, for my first writing gig!

Step Twelve has two parts: One, to carry the message to alcoholics, and two, to practice these principles (the steps) in all our affairs. And...there is a promise in wording of this step!! “Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps ...” That means; if you have gotten this far, you have had one. I had one, did you? Everyone does! I have never met someone in AA who has not had this promise fulfilled. Yep, the whole thing is well worth it just for this promise. Dr. Bob said that the whole of AA boils down to love and service. For me, writing on my laptop on the eve of thanksgiving (pushing my deadline again...Thanks for your patience Linda) it seems that love and service all came through a spiritual awakening. So then The Steps are the essence of it all. The Steps lead everywhere I want to go. Slice ‘em how you like ‘em, it’s just deep like that.

How do we carry the message? Just try. The Big Book has great (albeit a bit old school) directions for dealing with a newcomer and is a great reference point. In the days when they wrote the Big Book, they had to go out and find newcomers. It was a much different program then in the sense because they didn’t have the meetings that we have now. Sometimes these days it seems that we sit and wait for newcomers to come to us. Serenely and with our arms folded and we say, ‘attraction rather than promotion’.

But I wouldn’t be here if someone hadn’t twelve stepped me. So please don’t be afraid to say something that might hurt someone’s feelings in order to help save their life. You never know what God has in store for you. Let your intuition guide you. Getting a newcomers phone number and calling them to see how it is going is 12th Step work. Doing service at the group or district level, (continued p.2)

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AA Hotline 245-6677

(She Said) control are addressed through this step, and subject to 12 Step spiritual experiences of the “educational variety”.

The principles of AA, once just threads in the fabric of my life, have become my mantle, and while I can’t honestly claim to “wear life like a loose garment”; at least I no longer wear it as a spandex suit! I understand now that kindness is the greatest wisdom, and to love the fact that on any given day, in any given moment, I can actively engage in the process of recovery by taking a nanosecond to think, “How can I be helpful?” When I telescope out from myself in positive thought or deed I fulfill my primary purpose. As Benjamin Disraeli wrote, “The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own”. Why be a grain of sand when you can be the beach?

~ Ally S., Kauai



Letters To The Editor

Nice to see the letter to the editor by a visitor. Our group name is Sunrise Sobriety at Poipu Beach and I see that it always gets mixed up. We do want to know when there is news about our frequent visitors because they become a part of us when they are here. It is always sad to know we won't be graced with the presence of Theo again and happy to hear he made it out of this life sober.

~ Kathryn B.

Birthday Celebrations

South Shore

◆ Koloa Monday Women's ‘Na wahine ku pono’

5:00 p.m., Koloa Library, Last Monday of the month. CAKE & POTLUCK.

◆ Aloha Group - 7:30 p.m. Speaker Meeting, Koloa Union Church, last Tuesday of the month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

East Side

◆ Hui Ohana - 7:00-8:00 a.m. Last Saturday of the month. CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

◆ Steps to Freedom - 6:30 p.m. Last Monday of the month. CAKE & POTLUCK (7:30 pm meeting).

North Shore

◆ North Shore Aloha Group - 7:30 p.m. Last Monday of the month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

◆ Princeville-Hanalei Group - 7:30 p.m. Last Thursday of the Month - CAKE FOR BIRTHDAYS!

(He Said) sponsoring, talking to your own sponsor, going to meetings, or writing the ‘He Said’ column for the GIS, these are all forms of 12th step work. The spirit of the 12th Step goes beyond AA. To me the idea is to live service. Not just in AA, in life, work, and family as well. ‘Being love and service’ is a sure way to avoid selfishness and a spiritual rut. Plus, service has its own rewards.

Really, service sums up both parts of the 12th Step. “Practice these principles in all of our affairs” means: live the program. Our path can be a dangerous one. Our demons are never extinguished. They will never be until we are dead and extinguished with them. They are as much a part of us as our assets are. We must live with fear, selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and find balance and ways to manage them. The quickest route to this is service to others: instant relief. The second quickest way is spiritual work, like prayer and meditation, journaling, step work etc. Too much solitary spiritual work can be isolating, I am SO grateful for my friends grateful for AA meetings, and grateful for all the people that help me be me. It takes a village to raise this alcoholic.

So, there you have it: A years’ worth of thoughts. Time to turn it over to next year’s he said guy. I hear they have some one really good picked out for you...

~ Will L., Kauai

Happy Birthday

Carol O.	11/19	1981	29 yrs
Anderson	11/21	1987	23 yrs
Niamala	11/24	1995	15 yrs
Tom F.	11/15	1996	14 yrs
Lani A.	11/21	2005	5 yrs
Barry	11/8	2006	4 yrs
Bob	11/13	2006	4 yrs
Chris S.	11/3	2007	3 yrs
Jeanie	11/26	2007	3 yrs
Scott C.	11/3	2007	3 yrs
Mark G.	11/4	2007	3 yrs

~ Publishing Birthdays ~

Published the month after their occurrence.

If you would like a birthday published in the Garden Island Sobriety newsletter please **LET US KNOW** at:

District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Christmas ~ 2010 ~

Christmas Eve at Lydgate Small Pavilion

● **6:00 pm Potluck and Festivities**

Christmas Day at Lydgate Large Pavilion

● **10:00 am Potluck and Festivities**

New Years Eve ~ 2011 ~

Spend New Year's Eve in Poipu

● **5 pm Potluck and Celebration**

Look For Us In One Of The Pavilions!

Convention Boosts Sobriety



The 49th Annual Hawaii Convention was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort, November 4th – 7th 2010, in Waikiki.

The excitement began building months in advance with travel planning, transportation arrangements, getting together wardrobes for the Prom and asking every person in our network, “are you going to the Convention?” Prom Night, by the way, was amazing. Everyone dressed up and it was my first Prom ever.

What a thrill to discover that some members who have never been to a convention were coming. I counted 14 people from Kauai, all with different lengths of sobriety, even one with only a few days. We were at our true nature. It was like heaven on earth.

There was joy in attending the convention meetings, eating together, driving around Waikiki, getting lost, even getting a ticket. This last was a minor bump on the road but with God's intervention and our program we overcame; intuitively focused on the solution. We were like kids in a kindergarten, very happy kids.

We came home with a Spiritual boost, as if God had loaded us with His Love. I still have vivid memories of us all; the smiles, the laughter, the kindness of my brothers and sisters. I am so grateful that I was able to participate with you all.

“We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel from steerage to Captain's table.” (Big Book p. 17)

It was a memorable weekend, another one of God's miracles, and I am grateful to the alcoholics who shared those precious moments and love with me. It has inspired me to ask, “What can I do for you? How can I be helpful to others?” I love you all.

~ Alejandro H., Incoming DCM



Full Moon Walk

ON NUKOLII BEACH

Sunday, December 19, 6:30pm

No shoes required! Join Our Last Full Moon Hike Of 2010. It is a moderate walk, about 1 mile each way.

Directions: Nukolii Beach is behind the Wailua Golf Course. Look for the dirt road at the southern end of Wailua Golf Course. Follow that road! We will meet where the road meets the beach and there will be an AA meeting once we reach the Bonfire Site.

Information: Happyhourkauai@gmail.com



Saturday Bowling

Join the Fellowship Every 3rd Saturday

At The Lihue Lanes, 1:30 pm

Admission is \$11.25 and this includes the shoe rental plus two rounds of bowling. **Bring a pair of socks!!**

Announcing:

A Committed Women's Monthly Step Study

This will held on the last Saturday of each month in Lihue at 5pm for 1 ½ hours (non-AA/Alanon affiliated). The focus will be to read/prepare the step of the month from your literature and bring it to share your experience, strength, and hope. The first meeting will be held on January 29th and limited to 15 women.

Contact Diane F., 651-0025, dianewoof@sbcglobal.net

AA Meeting Places



Photo ~ Alejandro

Koloa Union Church

3289 Poipu Rd., Koloa

Tuesday 7:30 pm: Aloha Group, Spkr./Discussion

Wednesday 7:30 pm: Whisky & Milk, Stick Meeting

Thursday 4:30 pm: Step Study

Friday 7:30 pm: Big Book Study

Concept XII - Prudence

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that the sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought & action.

The following was presented by Francesca P. (Alt. Delegate) to Hawaii Area 17 at the Inform the Delegate assembly April 2006.

In part, the Conference Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself any time. Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult; they have not been made impossible. (p 62)

But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three-quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and

considerable time of 6 months is allowed for careful deliberation. (p 62)

The Warranties of Article 12 are as follows:

Warranty One: The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power. (p 63)

Warranty Two: Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” (p 64)

Warranty Three: None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others. (p 68)

Warranty Four: That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity. (p 68)

Warranty Five: That no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy. (p 69)

Warranty Six: That though the Conference may act for the service of A.A., it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of A.A. which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in actions and spirit. (p 74)

There are significant aspects of these Warranties which should be considered. Notice, for example, that all of them are counsels of prudence – prudence in personal relatedness, prudence in money matters and prudence in or relations with the world about us. For us, prudence is a workable middle ground – a channel of clear sailing between the obstacles of fear on the one side and of recklessness on the other. Prudence in practice creates a definite climate, the only climate in which harmony, effectiveness, and consistent spiritual progress can be achieved.

“We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all.” (p 60)

References: *The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts of World Service* by Bill W. 2005-2006 Edition Reflecting Actions of the 2005 General Service Conference.

~ Contributed by Shoshanah B.

Request a newsletter



by e-mail



District6newsletter@hotmail.com

Kauai Intergroup

Next Meeting December 4th
9:30 am, Lihue Neighborhood Center

New Intergroup Officers:

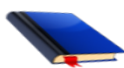
- Chairperson: Lu A.
- Alt. Chair: Bob B.
- Treasurer: Mike C.
- Secretary: Susan Ok.
- Literature: Danette M.
- Alt. Literature: Mark M.
- Hotline Chair: Damione
- Events: Christopher K.
- GIS Newsletter: Linda B.

Volunteers Needed For Service:

12-Step List: We need to know your name, gender, phone#, area willing to cover & if "do not call after 10pm.

Hotline Volunteers: Answering phones in a regular weekly slot, or be willing to fill in for vacationers.

Contact Damione: hotline.kauai@gmail.com - 634-8469.



Got Literature? We Deliver!

OR COME TO THE INTERGROUP MEETING!

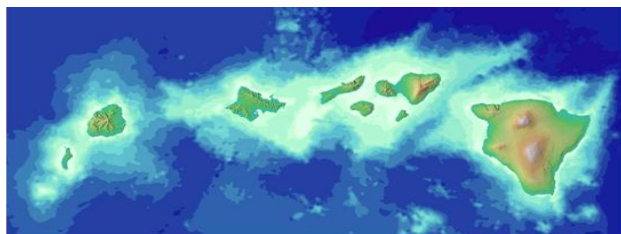
- *Books *Pamphlets *GIS Newsletter
- *Kauai AA Meeting Schedules



MAKELE SEZ:

**Don't Drink, Go To Meetings,
Do The Steps.**

Find A.A. in Hawaii



www.area17aa.org

Intergroup Treasurers Report

OCTOBER 2010

Income:

Princeville/Hanalei	\$ 120.00
Step Study Koloa 4:30pm	\$ 18.00
Happy Hour	\$ 106.90
Mary T. - Books	\$ 12.00
Hui Ohana - Books	\$ 241.50
Step Sisters	\$ 95.13
Friday Night Koloa-Big Book	\$ 107.00
Koloa Wed. Stick Meeting	\$ 5.00
Income Total	\$ 705.53

Expenses:

Sunday Koloa 3/11 ck.	\$ 150.00
Mark M. reimburse book order	\$ 241.50
GIS News- half of 4 th quarter	\$ 150.00
Guardian Self Storage rent	\$ 93.75
Hawaiian Telcom	\$ 95.75
Expenses Total	\$ 731.00

Balance	\$ 479.69
Prudent Reserve:	\$ -191.00
Available Funds:	\$ 288.69

~ Prepared by Mike C.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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



Service is Sobriety

Our Area 17  Delegate is
Elizabeth M.

delegate@area17aa.org

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



DCM CORNER

DECEMBER 2010

At the risk of being totally self-serving, I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU ALL for blessing me with the privilege of serving this remarkable fellowship for these past two years. I also want to share a quick synopsis of my view on where we are as I rotate to another commitment for the coming period.

To begin with, I think anyone at the Thankathon saw a very vibrant fellowship with a young, diverse and highly enthusiastic leadership.

And we're doing some new things. This past week one of our members was asked by a professional caregiver to transport an individual to detox at Mahelona. Other plans are being developed for further work with professionals in health care as well. The newest meeting on Kauai has attracted a significant following & most other meetings are also well attended.

We are not doing well in a few other areas, however, and I want to be sure light is shed on them.

Our 7th tradition needs more attention as does The Grapevine. Neither our District nor our Area will begin with as much money in its reserve as happened for the previous panel. I believe GSO is in a similar situation despite some big cost-cutting measures. The area treasurer has determined that it takes \$8.08 per member to fully fund the area. I am asking that anyone who reads this do two things: mention this in your group and send a check to the area for \$8.08! (also mention in meetings the necessity of financially supporting our fellowship!)

The Grapevine needs similar action. If you don't have a subscription either get one or check to be sure your group has one. If there are Grapevines laying around un-used, get them to someone who will put them in a doctor's office or other waiting room or get them to the District Committee. If you haven't seen one lately, try to get a copy and notice the updated format. I really like the improvements.

Before closing for this last time, I would be remiss if I didn't underscore once again the vital necessity to be a part of this design for living -- get a home group, join a committee and carry the message to those who still suffer. It's what we do TOGETHER.

I truly hope all enjoyed the Thanksgiving celebration as much as I did and that sobriety continues to bless each of you throughout this holiday season.

~ In service, Jim D

Next Meeting December 11th
9:30 am, 3146 Akahi St., Lihue

Panel 59 becomes Panel 61

DCM: Jim D.	- Alejandro H.
Alt. DCM: Susan O'N.	- Neil P.
Treasurer: Courtney P.	- Susan O'N
Secretary: Michele K.	- Heather C.
Grapevine: Alejandro H.	
Archives: Mathea A.	-Mathea A.
CPC: Bart D.	- Bart D.

Kauai District Cash Flow

Sept. 13 to Nov. 13, 2010

(District Meeting to District Meeting)

Starting Balance	\$1897.78
Income	
Happy Hour	\$ 22.90
Princeville/Hanalei	\$ 26.25
Koloa Aloha	\$ 25.00
TGIF Vet Center	\$ 55.00
Koloa Nooners	\$ 25.00
Step Sisters	\$ 95.13
Young Peoples	\$ 50.00
Interest 8/21 to 9/20	\$.08
Interest 9/21 to 10/20	\$.08
Income Total	\$ 299.44
Payments	
DCM Assembly registration	\$ 25.00
Stop Payment stolen ck.bk.	\$ 15.00
DCM Committee meeting	\$ 243.40
GSR Assembly (Stps 2 Frdm)	\$ 150.00
GSR Assembly (Prn./Hanalei)	\$ 150.00
GSR Assembly (Happy Hour)	\$ 36.50
Literature/Tagalog Big Book	\$ 10.00
Assembly deposit Lihue N Ctr	\$ 220.00
Rent for District meeting Q4	\$ 90.00
Payments Total	\$ 939.90
Balance	\$ 1257.32
Prudent Reserve:	\$ -500.00
Available Funds:	\$ 757.32

~ Prepared by Courtney P.

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Kaua'i District Committee

PO Box 1503, Kapa'a, HI 96746

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

