

Hawai`i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

The spring 2008 Assembly was held at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Kalihi Valley, Oahu. The Area Chair, Kay R. and Area Secretary Kau`i P. were present. The Assembly opened on the first day at 9:33 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer led by Kay R. A reading from CAL literature was read by Julia R. and The 12 Traditions were read by Anna.

The Area Officers, Coordinators and Past Delegates introduced themselves and shared in brief their responsibilities.

The following were introduced as new GR's: Cathy, Wednesday Winners/Linda, Friday Morning Step Study, Sada, SOS Serenity/Henrietta, Friday Night Beginners.

Announcements

The following announcements were made:

- Evaluation Sheets, Priscilla H.
- Ask It Basket, Priscilla H.
- Introduction of the Assembly Committee & Linn G. for registration, Clay D., Central District.
- RSS Table, Mary O. (In absence of Maureen)
- Literature Display, Steve A.
- No literature was available due to the absence of Bridgida C., HALDAC
- Archives Display, Warren M.
- Alateen, Julie B. offered to assist anyone during lunches and breaks.
- Nine Rules, Cecily C. and volunteers did a presentation of the nine rules

Assembly Inventory – JoAn B. shared on the Area Inventory that will be done by all Assembly participants and passed on to the next panel.

Equalized Travel Workshop – Ethel B. explained the purpose of the equalized travel fund. She shared that the policies and procedures for the equalized travel have been worked on over the past 3 years. The committee will recommend that the equalized travel fund be eliminated and that the funds be put in the general fund. At this point all Hawai`i DRs were introduced. The following was discussed:

- This would need to be supported by the districts.
- Airfares are going up.
- \$4118.00 is available in the equalized travel fund. This amount was achieved due to airfares previously being low. This fund will be used until it runs out.
- Early purchasing of airline tickets, since the assembly dates are known far in advance.
- Does the Area reflect WSO's policy when an area can not send their delegate to conference?
- Has lack of contributions from districts caused a hardship for the Area? Response: no DR or Coordinator has been unable to attend the area committee meeting due to lack of contributions from the district.
- Leave equalized travel fund where it is when it goes down revisit the issue.

Hawai`i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

- Districts would need to understand that if they are paying they are subsidizing others.
- Change suggested splits from 50/40/10 to 60/30/10.
- A personal experience with the equalized travel fund was shared. Although they were invited to attend they also received a notice of being in arrears and did not want to incur more debt.
- One district did not want to accept a handout and felt bad.
- The treasurer shared that the budget committee decided to add the expense as an Area budget line item.
- It is important that all DRs attend the Area Committee meeting to keep their districts informed.

Mary O. made an announcement that the Windward District has a new DR, Janet.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was approved without opposition.

Roll Call – The secretary took the roll of all voting GR's which came to a total of 24.

Unfinished Business

Equalized Travel Fund

Motion: A motion was made by Misty, seconded by Warren and carried by unanimous vote to eliminate the "Equalized Travel Fund" and put the existing funds in the general fund. Travel expenses for the seven District Representatives to attend the Area Committee Meeting would be included in the area budget under Area meeting expense.

Revisions to the Main Policies & Procedures

Motion: A motion was made by Tom, seconded by Misty and carried by unanimous vote to accept the Policies and Procedures as amended.

District Happenings

- Windward – Mary O. announced the ice cream social event on July 19th, 6p-8p with a special speaker.
- W. Hawaii – Warren M. announce the July 4th fundraiser. This will be the 2nd year with AA, 100 people or more are expected. There will also be a silent auction at this event. The contact person is Sheila. Everyone can participate just by sending pictures of items they would like to donate to the auction. Flyers to come. This event will help to fund GRs to assembly. The district passed 3 district policies regarding dual members in service, Scholarship Fund for GRs to attend assembly and new groups. The district will be gathering resources for new groups to put on to a CD. They are also compiling a cookbook and looking into an East Hawaii District t-shirt.
- Maui – Dwight M., in addition to his report submitted to the Island Serenity, shared that they are doing outreach to Lanai and Molokai. They have had positive cooperation with AA. The annual Maui Fest is next week in which Father Tom will be a special guest.
- Kauai – Sue R. reported that there are 7 meetings and 1 Alateen meeting.
- Leeward – Naomi H. reported that there are 10 groups of which 1 is a Japanese language group and a new Alateen group. There are also 2 certified sponsors. 5 GRs from the Leeward district are present at this assembly.

Hawai`i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

- W. Hawaii – JoAn B. reported that E. & W. Hawaii will host a workshop. W. Hawaii will be hosting the next Fall Assembly on October 24th 25th and 26th at the King Kamehameha Hotel in Kona. The contract has been signed with the hotel. A potluck is being planned for Friday night and possibly an activity for Friday afternoon. They also have a willing DR for the next panel.
- Central – Clay D., in addition to his report in the Island Serenity, reported the addition of a new group bringing the total groups in Central District to 12.

Delegates Time – Cecily C.

Cecily C. shared pictures of her visit to Stepping Stones. She shared that she felt privileged to be part of the conference and sponsored a new delegate. Each day started with an insightful quote one of which was “Are you ready to make a difference?” “How can I?” She shared on her strengths developed by doing service and was able to refine her speaking skills as well as developed other skills. She traveled on a bus in which the theme had everyone looking like Bill and Lois.

Finances - Income from contributions fall short but income from book sales keep us afloat. Total expenses were \$4,443,388.00. Expenses continue to escalate. She clarified that Appeals are not group contributions, they are individual contributions. She shared that 87.1% of contributions come from Hawaii, which makes Hawaii #1 in areas that contribute. A new guideline about splits titled “Reserve Fund Guideline G41” will help groups with their budgets. It showed that the value of a dollar today equals \$3.62. She posed two questions to the GR’s. What can you do in your group to help members understand the difference between the quarterly appeal and group contributions? And how can you help your group make informed decisions about their quarterly splits?

Literature Coordinator – Steve shared that “Discovering Choices” is a new piece of literature about Public Outreach that will debut at the International Convention.

Public Outreach – Marilyn shared the PSA “Sketches”. It depicts 3 different relationships involving alcoholics. There will be new forms for ordering Forums in June or July. She also shared that WSO is looking for members with experience with the internet. Several positions are open. A podcast which one can subscribe to has been developed with members sharing why they came to Al-Anon.

Appeals Letter Skit – A skit was performed highlighting the appeal letter.

Action Committee Breakouts – Report Backs

Membership – Alateen Sponsorship Training – Mary

- Covered logistics and forms involved in becoming an Alateen Sponsor.
- Discussed the website
- Discussed background checks for sponsors.

Hawai'i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

Business – Area Calendar Fundraiser – Tom

- Modeling Montana which created a calendar and sold it for \$5.00. That area was able to make \$800.00.
- Sales would be to Al-Anon and AA
- Each month could display pictures of literature.
- The calendar would highlight Assembly dates and Area Events
- It should be put out by October prior to the new year
- It would be a goal to have it available at the Fall Assembly
- The back of the calendar could list all the important phone numbers
- It could have a Hawaiian theme
- The price should be kept low
- Using staples would make it easier to mail
- We could advertise for advance orders
- Flyers should go out by July

Communications – Island Serenity Long Term Plan – Patti A.

- What do we want from the Island Serenity?
- Printing cost issues. Cost for the current issue was .42 per copy.
- May incorporate fee for Island Serenity in the registration fee. (.50)
- Island Serenity can be used when doing report backs to groups and district meetings

Ask It Basket

The following Ask-It-Basket Questions were addressed.

1. Is there a Neighbor Island meeting schedule? If so, where can I get it? (Neighbor Island meeting schedules are available on the Hawaii Al-Anon website @ www.afghawaii.org. Click on “meeting schedule” and then the name of the island you’re interested in. Meeting schedules are available in 2 formats, PDF and HTML. Neighbor island meeting info is also available through each island’s AIS #.
2. Why doesn’t Al-Anon address/include addictive drugs – why only alcohol? It seems today that drugs are the biggest concern in our society. It seems there is no place that’s advertised for family members to go, or is there? (Tradition 3, “The only requirement for membership is that there is a problem of alcoholism in a relative or friend”. Also, Tradition 5, AFG has one purpose: to help families of alcoholics.
3. How does WSO (or us) wish to see “Al-Anon & Alateen Groups at Work” used? (Standardized. Intro to Manual – info needed for group start up. Less bulky. Every individual, so they have group info)
4. Is there anyway to get copies of the Area Committee Roster for contact information? (See your DR who attends the Area Committee meeting, first. They can contact the Area Committee member. As of yet the Area Committee has not consented to release Area Committee contact information outside the committee)
5. If someone wants to write an article about Al-Anon for the newspaper, can the person sign their full name as the author? (Pg. 83 of the Service Manual on “Anonymity” and Pg. 84, second paragraph)

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned on the first day at 4:23 p.m.

Hawai'i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

The Spring Assembly 2008 reconvened on the second day at 9:46 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer. Susan L. read the Twelve Concepts and shared a reading from "Hope for Today" page 146.

Announcements – The following announcements were made:

- Group Picture, Clay D.
- Housekeeping, Clay D
- RSS, Mary O. announced that the RSS table will be closed at 2:30 p.m. The 7th Tradition will be passed a second time today.
- Ask-It-Basket; Priscilla H. announced that the Ask-It-Basket will close at 1 p.m.

New Business

Area Calendar-Clay D.

A committee was formed to work on the Area Calendar. The members of this committee are Susan, Amy, Carolyn A. (not present), Marilyn and JoAn. Anna and Sue will also be assisting this committee. They are looking at distributing flyers to announce the calendar in July 2008. The cost should be no more than \$6.00. It should be ordered by September 6, 2008 at the Area Committee meeting.

Policies and Procedures – Julie B. & Ethel B.

The Alateen Policies and Procedures will be out by July 2008, reformatted and clearer.

Delegates Time – Cecily C.

Delegate, Cecily C. expressed her gratitude to be on this panel. In preparation for the World Service Conference she receives information 10 weeks in advance electronically. Motions that will be discussed are sent out early so the delegates can familiarize themselves with them.

Bequest - The topic of "bequest" was discussed. Members want to know why they could not donate more, referred to page 85 of the Service Manual. The difference between a "legacy" and "bequest" was discussed at the conference. It was explained that a "legacy" suggest "strings attached" as where "bequest" are an out right gift. Cecily shared a story about a South African delegate who was able to attend the conference because of someone's bequest. A motion was passed the make bequest unlimited. The funds would be placed in the general fund in which 10% would be used for a special fund used primarily for outreach projects.

The WSO request that the Areas hold a special project workshop for the purpose of gathering ideas as to what special projects we could potentially do if we had the budget to do so. These projects would be on a broad prospective benefiting the World Wide membership of Al-Anon. At this point groups were formed to discuss these projects.

Special Projects Workshop, Report Backs:

Group 1 – Cheryl C

Al-Anon Cruise, Infomercials, Play or T.V. Series, Ad Time during the Super Bowl, Open a My Space type of site, Educational material for private sector, schools, kits or health teachers short movie, brochures, places to get help, walk across America for Al-Anon.

Hawai'i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

Group 2 – Misty

A commercial about what Al-Anon is and how it can help, National Al-Anon Day, paid position for Alateen grants in schools, cable T.V. meetings, movie about an Al-Anon member, research about the family disease of alcoholism, Al-Anon hotline.

Group 3 – Rosalie

A film, advertising, super bowl plugs, T.V. documentary, yahoo or internet pop ups, online shopping for Al-Anon, WSO Scholarship funds for members in remote areas, interactive, recovery center, cruise, Alateen summer camp, summer fun for recovery for Alateens, in school outreach, teens to attend conference.

Dialog to Resolution

Many groups have problems. These are different methods for resolving group problems from page 48 and 49 Service Manual. Resolution is not about winning.

Pearls of Wisdom

- Presume good will. Assume good intentions. Think positive “live and let live”
- An idea will happen when its supposed to happen
- This too will pass
- Trial Period
- Its’ not about how I can win. Consider if their perspective needs changing. Keep an open mind
- Together we can solve any problem. Include God (Serenity Prayer)

Five Guides to Communication

- Discuss don’t attack. Listening with a critical mind
- Keeping your emotions in track. Separate motions so you can come back and talk in a civilized manner. Keep voice low and present.
- Stick to the subject. See “Dilemma of an Alcoholic Marriage” pages 30-33
- See Service Manual on Conflict and Harmony
- Listen to Complaints
- Don’t make demands

Diversity and Anonymity – Policy Motion # 3

Tradition 11 – There are 3 elements that involve:

- The General Public
- The Media
- Professionals

A skit was performed, “Al-Anon Cook-Off” that showed how even with different ideas (ingredients) a group can still come to an agreement and each member can have the respect for other member’s ideas.

Hawai`i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

Workshop HAWSC R Us!

A skit was performed about various Area positions by the following participants. Ethel and Kay, for HALAC, Naomi H, Web-Coordinator, Paula O., Public Outreach, Marilyn M., Newsletter, Patti A., Literature Coordinator, Steve A. Archivist, Dwight M. and Julie B. for Alateen.

DR Skit

The DRs put on a humorous skit with a psychic and the Service Manual. Chair, Kay R., Treasurer, Mary O. Secretary, Kau`i P. Alternate Delegate, Priscilla H. and Delegate, Cecily C. shared about their positions on the Area.

Concept 8 Skit – Kona District

Kona District performed a skit around Concept 8 “The Board of Trustees delegates full authority for routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters to its executive committee”.

Alternate Delegates Time- Priscilla H.

Ask-It-Basket Questions

- When we were talking about “bequest” it seemed we kept getting confused about anonymity. So just hypothetically, if we had a National Al-Anon day could we all gather in the front of the White House and say we’re Al-Anon or no because of anonymity? (Yes, but if the media showed up we would have to protect our anonymity at that level)
- When did tradition 11’s wording change from “press, radio, T.V. and films” to “press radio, films and T.V.? (Changed when WSO was researching Alateen archives, they discovered that the change to the original wording was never properly handled so the change was not appropriate so the original wording was restored. Possibly in 2005)
- If a GR takes office mid-panel does he/she step down at end of panel or finish out 3 years? (A GR who takes office mid-panel would finish the current term and if he/she chooses to do so could then stand for re-election for the next panel (3 years). page 133 of service manual under "Election of a Group Representative (GR) and an Alternate" - 1st paragraph...The GR is elected by his group for a three-year term by any election procedure it chooses....A group may re-elect its GR for another term. - 3rd paragraph, If the GR resigns or proves to be inactive, the Alternate completes the term and may then be elected for a three year term of his own.)

Announcements

- 2008 International, July 4-6, 2008. 320 0 members are registered. A contingency from Hawaii is going.
- 47th Hawaii Annual Convention, November 13-16, 2008. Registration forms available at this assembly. Victoria is the Al-Anon chair and Julia R. is the program chair.
- Clay D. shared that the Aloha Roundup is in need of an Al-Anon chair and is held the end of February. The Al-Anon chair has full vote on the committee.
- Conscience Contact registration is \$225.43
- Maui Fest, May 31 through June 1. Father Tom will be a special guest.
- Fall Assembly – Kona District. October 24th, 25th and 26th. A Friday event is being planned. It will be held at the King Kamehameha Hotel. Room rates will be \$95.00 per room and can accommodate 4 guests. Flyers will be out in July.

Thank you to Central District for hosting the Spring Assembly.

The microphone was then opened for closing comments.

Hawai`i Area World Service
Spring Assembly 2008 Assembly Minutes
May 24th & 25th, 2008

7th Tradition – A total of \$390.00 was contributed toward the 7th Tradition at this Assembly.

RSS – \$117.00 was made at the RSS table. An explanation of how the scholarship fund is used was given.

Adjournment – The assembly adjourned at 3:50 p.m.