



Maui Serenity Gazette

JANUARY 2023

A.A. on Maui

Central Office

70 Central Ave.,
Suite 1,
Wailuku, Maui, HI
96793

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon., Wed.,
Thurs., Fri.,

10a - 4p

808-244-9673

**Phones are
answered
24/7**

AA Meeting schedules can be found online:

www.aamaui.org

To receive this newsletter via email,
send request to:

info@aamaui.org

AA Approved
Literature
is available at
Central Office



STEP ONE: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

The First Step of Alcoholics Anonymous: We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable—is something that I have to practice every day. We alcoholics are undisciplined, and, although I tried to convince myself and anyone who would listen to me early in my sobriety that I was different, I, too, am undisciplined. I need to do things over and over again to make them a part of my everyday behavior. I need to work this Step over and over and over again to get it right.

I started drinking when I was thirteen years old. I drank for thirty-two years. Space constraints won't allow for me to launch into a thorough, chronological drunk-a-log, so suffice it to say, I'm right where I belong here in AA.

I can tell you what it was like toward the end of my drinking days. I had turned into an isolated home drinker. I took my liquor into my office and disappeared for hours on end. I didn't drink every day, but I drank most days. Some days I'd wake up feeling so awful that I'd swear that I wouldn't drink that night, and sometimes I wouldn't. Every once in a while I could actually put two days in a row like that together, but I was miserable. Most days, however, come 5 P.M., I'd be drinking again. If it was one of those days I wasn't drunk, I'd be terribly hung over or simply unbearable to be around.

My wife and two teenaged kids avoided me. We seldom had guests or friends over. If we did go out, I'd either have to have several primers to take the edge off so that I could stand being around other people, or, if the situation called for me to be sober, I'd act like a child and pout in other words, I was restless, irritable, and discontented until I could drink again.

My wife was trying to keep the family together, being driven crazy trying to make everybody happy except herself.

She did tell me that I was an alcoholic, but I'd have none of that talk. Sure, I drank a lot. I hung with a fast crowd. I played hard. But an alcoholic? To me, an alcoholic was a stereotype—the homeless guy in the back alley in a trench coat with a brown paper bag. I certainly wasn't an alcoholic. I thought other people drank just like I did.

Physically, I was a wreck. I was on nine different prescription medications dealing with real and not-so-real illnesses. I never, ever, felt good, and I had lost all sight of what "normal" felt like. My life was going nowhere. I was extremely unhappy and depressed. Nothing seemed to turn out as I had planned. Why was all of this happening to me?

One day, a thought popped into my head: Maybe my family would be better off with my life insurance policy than with me in their lives. Why should all of us have to live in such misery? Maybe I'll just disappear to South America and be out of their lives once and for all.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The problem with that was, first, they shouldn't have to wait for seven years to reap the rewards of my insurance policy, and second, the alternative really, really scared me. I couldn't stop thinking about it.

Around this time, I went on a trip with some friends. It was an annual boys' trip that was nothing more than an excuse to drink heavily for five days without being scrutinized by my family. I went out to the bars with the gang on the first night with the sole intention of really ripping it up, but, no matter how much I drank, I couldn't seem to get drunk-nor was I having any fun. Everything seemed like the same boring conversations with the same boring drinking buddies.

I left the bar well before closing time, which was truly out of character for me, and went back to the hotel to go to bed, but I couldn't sleep. Something was gnawing at me, and I lay in bed staring at the ceiling for four hours feeling very uncomfortable and restless. I thought about my family and how relieved they probably were without me around. Suddenly, I was struck with an overwhelming, almost panic-like, feeling that I had to get home.

I hit the road at 4 A.M. and drove eight hours through severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. When I got home, nothing jumped out at me as to why I needed to be there. I couldn't explain it to my wife either, and I'd scared her when I arrived home four days early from my vacation. Three days later, this non-alcoholic picked up the phone, called a local hospital's twenty-four hour hotline, and asked for help. They scheduled me for detox and rehabilitation. When I told my wife what I was going to do, these amazing words came out of my mouth: "I just can't do it anymore." That's how I made my start on sobriety and recovery.

I was introduced to AA in rehab when AA members came into the facility. I instantly understood the meaning of the term "wanting what they have."

As I slowly learned how to get honest with myself, I could see how my alcoholism had progressed so rapidly through my life and the lives of those around me. I came to believe that if my illness went untreated, it would prove fatal for me.

I attended a lot of First Step meetings those first few months, and more and more truths about my life became apparent to me. I'd had seizures that had gone undiagnosed (how could my doctors have helped? I lied through my teeth to them about my drinking). I'd had an anxiety attack on a plane flight that almost caused the pilot to make an emergency landing (it was probably an attack of the DTs).

All of these recollections helped me to take that First Step.

I noticed that my sponsor, who'd been sober more than twenty-five years, attended First Step meetings fairly regularly. I thought that might not be a bad idea, and continued to do so myself as I progressed to working the other Steps.

Through working the Steps and sharing at meetings, I learned that I was probably drinking alcoholically since I was in my late teens. What I shared in First Step meetings grew and intensified to include these realizations. This served all the more to reinforce just how powerless I was over alcohol and how unmanageable my life really was. That First Step was just as important to me many months into recovery as it was the first day I admitted and accepted it. That's how I made my start in AA. That's how I first started to get honest with myself. That's how I made a start in sobriety and recovery. That's how I set my sights on the First Step.

You see, Step One contains two distinct facts: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol (Fact#1). . . That our lives had become unmanageable (Fact#2). When I first got sober, the fact that I was powerless over alcohol was unquestionably related to the fact that my life had become unmanageable.

Today, I'm sober and in recovery. Both facts in the First Step are still true. I was, am, and always will be powerless over alcohol. My life was, is, and always will be unmanageable. Today, because I'm a recovering alcoholic, that's okay.

David B. | Wisconsin

AA Announcements

MAUI AA INTERGROUP MONTHLY MEETING
IS NOW HELD *IN-PERSON*.

WHEN: SECOND SATURDAY OF EVERY
MONTH @ 6P

WHERE: 30 LIPOA ST., SUITE 4105
KIHEI, HI.



Meeting Guide is a free-of-charge meet- ing finder app.

The app helps people find A.A. meetings and resources near them. A.A. service entities provide the meeting data for the app. Meeting Guide is available for iOS and Android smartphones.

Meeting Guide syncs with area, district, intergroup/central offices and international general service office websites, relaying meeting information from more than 400 A.A. service entities directly to the app.



[CLICK HERE](#)

More Info: Other Island Contacts

Oahu AA

808. 946. 1438

oahuaa.org

West Hawai'i (Kona)

808. 329. 1212

westhawaiiiaa.org

Kaua'i AA

808. 245. 6677

kauaiaa.org

East Hawai'i (Hilo & Puna)

808. 961. 6133

easthawaiiiaa.org



The Seventh Tradition states:

*“Every A.A. group ought to
be fully self-supporting,
declining outside*

*contributions.” While
contributions cover each
group's rent and other
expenses, the Seventh
Tradition is essential*

at every level of A.A. service.

*It is both a privilege and a
responsibility for groups
and members to ensure
that not only their group,
but also their*

*intergroup/central office,
local services, district,
area, and the General Service*

*Office remain
self-supporting. This keeps*

*A.A. free of outside influences that
might divert us from our*

*primary purpose —
to help the alcoholic who still
suffers.*

- [source aa.org](http://source.aa.org)

Where to Send Contributions:

Contributions to Maui Intergroup

Make checks payable to:

Maui AA (include Group name, #)
70 Central Ave, Suite #1, Wailuku, HI 96793

Members may contribute online

aamaui.com



Contributions to Districts

Make checks payable to:

each individual District, include Group name, #
Kihei District #11 P.O. Box 815, Puunene, HI 96784
No Ka Oi District #5 P.O. Box 843, Puunene, HI 96784
TriIsland District #13 P.O. Box 11814, Lahaina, HI 96761

Contributions to GSO

Make checks payable to:

GENERAL FUND

General Service Office

PO BOX 2407

James A Farley Station

New York, NY 10116-2407

Contributions to Hawaii Area 17

Make checks payable to:

Hawaii Area Committee (include Group name, #)

Hawaii Area Committee

PO Box 1413 Honolulu, HI 96806

MAHALO!

TRADITION ONE:

OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A.A. UNITY.

Recently, when working with a service sponsee on Tradition One, I was using the Traditions Checklist after studying the Tradition with them – and the overriding phrase that kept coming up for both of us was, ***“We Before Me.”***

As my service sponsor did with me, I use the Traditions Checklist as an “inventory tool” with my service sponsees to give them a chance to take a snapshot inventory of how they are practically applying each Tradition in their own lives today. While it was originally written to help groups look at themselves, using the checklist in this manner gives me the chance to look at me (*which can be dangerous sometimes, but highly beneficial*) and how well I am “playing in the sandbox” both inside the rooms of A.A. and outside the rooms in every aspect of my life.

Being the good alcoholic I am, I can assure you that when I first started doing service in A.A., from the very beginning, I was convinced there was a *better way* to do it (whatever IT was). Whether it’s a *better way* to make coffee, a *better way* to lay out the literature on the table, a *better way* to open a meeting, a *better way* to run a business meeting.... I was convinced I knew a *better way*. (Bill tells us on Pg. 35 of the 4th Edition of the BB that “our mental states are obviously the crux of the problem... LOL!)

Bill Wilson tells us in Tradition One that ***“the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies.”*** He goes on to say, ***“Does this mean that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it? We may certainly answer this question with a loud No! There is none which more jealously guards the individual’s right to think, talk and act as he wishes. No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled.”***

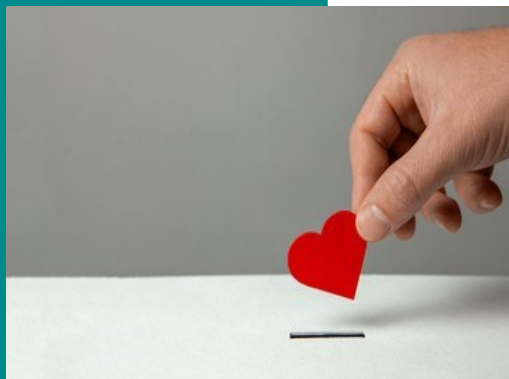
So, do I get to bring my better way to the service work I am doing? Do I get to offer suggestions on a possible alternative to how things have always been done? Sure I do – but I need to remember to offer those suggestions from the standpoint of how it can be beneficial to the whole and not just beneficial to me. I need to remember that there are always other points of view that are valid as well. I need to remember that there are other very smart and talented A.A.’s who can bring wonderful ideas to the table too. I also need to remember that in A.A., there is always room for the minority or dissenting opinion, for sometimes, that minority opinion may sway the whole in a way that I could never have dreamed of.

Respecting other people’s way of thinking is one of the first and most important things I can do when providing service at the Group, District, County or Area level. Bill wraps up his points about this in Tradition One by saying, ***“So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us, we saw personalities destroying whole peoples. The struggle for wealth, power, and prestige was tearing humanity apart as never before. As we had once struggled and prayed for individual recovery, just so earnestly did we commence to quest for the principles through which A.A. itself might survive. On anvils of experience, the structure of our Society was hammered out.”***

So it is with us today – as we provide service to the Fellowship – we ask ourselves – what are we doing to be a **part of** instead **apart from**? I encourage every GSR to share this with their groups at your next business meeting and encourage your group to ask itself this question. Then you can feel confident that you are doing everything you can to ensure that ***“Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity”*** and you ARE putting the **We** before the **Me**!

God bless,

Rick W.



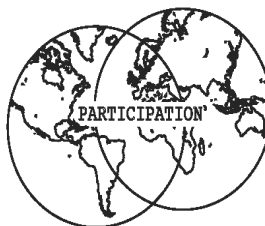
PLEASE POST

“But we
do have
expenses...”

When you “put money in the basket”
you support your group and A.A. worldwide.

You help make sure that:

- Your group gets meeting space
 - Phones get answered
- Alcoholic inmates get Big Books
- Professionals get correct information about A.A.
 - Loner A.A.s get letters
 - Newcomers get literature and meeting lists
- A.A.s around the globe share experience, strength and hope



Region, Country, World

“I want the hand of A.A. always to be there...”

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MAUI AA INTERGROUP THANKS YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

OUR RECENT HOLIDAY ALKATHONS WERE OUR
FIRST SINCE 2019!

MAHALO TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS
FOR HOSTING THE 2022 HOLIDAY ALKATHONS:
TTOSBT (ZOOM) & TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE (IN-PERSON)
KIHEI MORNING SERENITY (KMS)
HAIR OF THE DOG

ALSO THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS WHO ATTEND AND
SUPPORT OUR EVENTS! YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS
HELP MAUI INTERGROUP CARRY THE MESSAGE OF HOPE TO
THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS.

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Passed the test

A newcomer was couch-surfing at his sponsor's house for a few days when he noticed a task list on the refrigerator.

After reading the first item, "Cleans up after himself," the newcomer said aloud, "I do that!"

He then read the next item: "Brushes teeth without being asked," and said, "Yeah, I do that, too!"

"Goes to bed without creating a fuss," was the third item. "I do that," said the still wet one.

It was then that he looked up and read the heading at the top of his sponsor's list: "Things that our 4-year-old does."

J.A.
Enumclaw, Wash.

Heard at a meeting

"Then I'd go do something stupid to prove how smart I was."

Anonymous
Tucson, Ariz.



Each week long-time AA members Don and Sam will interview a different member about their experience, strength and hope, in a casual "meeting after the meeting" manner. Special features will enhance each episode.



CLICK LINK BELOW
FOR MORE INFO





Monthly Maui Intergroup Meeting Minutes for Saturday @ 6:00p via Zoom; 12/10/22

PRESENT: Dave, Jim, Ellen, Scott, Kat, Troy, Mike, Kevin, Dayna, Karen Preamble read by Dave.

STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Per Dave, Michelle and Jimmy James absent. We are skipping group updates until later in the meeting so elections can commence. Cash reserves are ok; group donations were low (they have been on Oahu also). Intergroup on Maui has been existing off our prudent reserves. Our next meeting will go live on Jan. 14.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

See Balance sheet. Starting Balance: \$4,002; Group Contributions: \$ 909.65 (Alcathon Contribution: \$505); Literature: \$160; Total Inflow: \$3,074.65; Prudent Reserve: \$11,510.03

CHAIR REPORT:

Per Dave, we broke even at Thanksgiving Alcathon. Cameron Center charges us \$300 per event. Central Office book sales are down. We need better participation at our monthly Intergroup meetings. Dave asked for volunteers on Step 1/ Tradition 1 for the Serenity Gazette.

OLD BUSINESS:

CHRISTMAS ALCATHON needs sign-ups; KMS/Andrea is chair. Flyers are on-line. Meeting hybrid (on-line & live) to be discussed at next panel.

ELECTIONS:

2 yr commitment. Intergroup Chair (presides at all meetings): OPEN; Alternate/Vice Chair: OPEN ; Recording Secretary (keeps minutes for monthly meetings; not steering committee meetings): Karen; Treasurer: Jim H.

INTROS:

Jim - Whalers, Ellen - KMS, Scott - TTOSBT, Kat - On-line group TTOSBT, Troy - Happy Hour, Mike L. - Facilitate elections; incoming standing Committee chair, Karen - Saturday Wailuku Group & Intergroup recording secretary, Dayna - Dist. 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS Alcathons are 3pm-3pm (24 hours) at the Cameron Center. Always need help with clean-up.
- Intergroup Meetings going live next January 14 in Kihei at 30 Lipoa #4106. Will be on Website.
- 1st Saturday of each month, meeting to Lanai, take the 9:45 ferry in Lahaina. Dist.11 has no one in service at this time; need help in all positions.

Respectfully Submitted, Karen Y.P.

Next Meeting: 1/14/23 (going live)

CONTRIBUTING GROUPS	December	2022 YTD
11th Step Meditation Kihei		\$502.50
11th Step Meditation Pukalani		\$187.00
Alana Ohana		\$4,200.00
Anonymous Contributions		\$510.00
Club 449		\$469.00
District 13		\$1,200.00
Hair of the Dog		\$524.20
Happy Hour		\$1,594.09
High In The Sky		\$372.00
Kahana Sober Wahines		\$20.00
Kapalua Spinners		\$400.00
Kihei Beach		\$306.90
Kihei Morning Serenity	\$97.21	\$1,553.00
Ladies Night - Lahaina		\$153.00
Maui Sunset	\$234.00	\$2,410.12
Misfit Toys		\$1,140.75
No Ka Oi Group	\$90.00	\$340.00
Ohana Group		\$952.74
Online Contributions	\$522.50	\$1,918.55
Primary Purpose		\$486.44
Samurai's in Sobriety		\$118.00
Straight Pepper Diet		\$300.00
Sisters Of Sobriety		\$37.50
Something Better Than Gold		\$212.65
Step Sisters		\$81.70
To Thine Own Self Be True		\$757.00
TTOSB		\$1,065.94
Upcountry Speaker		\$200.00
Upcountry Sunrise	\$200.00	\$1,315.00
Viviendo Sobrio		\$65.00
Wake Up Call		\$94.66
Womens AA Way of Life		\$225.00
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$1,143.71	\$23,712.74

OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET	
INFLOW: December	
Starting Balance	\$2,736.83
Total Group Contributions//Dec,	\$1,143.71
Add'l Thxgiving Alkathon Contributions	\$310.00
November Literature Sales	\$640.50
Xmas Alkathon Contributions	\$677.00
TOTAL INFLOW / MONTH	\$2,771.21
YEAR TO DATE INFLOW	\$34,668.66
OUTFLOW: December	
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Haran Development (rent)	\$525.00
Office Supplies	\$46.28
Mgr salary first 1/2 December	\$600.00
NYE Alkathon Host Seed Money	\$300.00
Hawaiian Tel (Call Forwarding)	\$21.25
Xmas Alkathon Host Seed	\$300.00
MOBI (office cell phone)	\$28.91
Spectrum (office internet)	\$76.27
IRS Federal (withholding tax)	\$567.52
Hawaii State (withholding tax)	\$180.76
Mgr salary last 1/2 December	\$600.00
AAWS (literature)	\$560.93
TOTAL OUTFLOW /MONTH	\$3,806.92
YEAR TO DATE OUTFLOW	\$39,632.69
THIS MONTH NET INFLOW:	(\$1,035.71)
YTD NET INFLOW:	(\$4,964.03)
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,701.12
Prudent Reserve	\$11,510.66

***Thank you for your
generous contributions!***

Without your financial support, Central Office cannot exist to serve A.A. members and groups on Maui.





THANK YOU TO OUR CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS !

OFFICE: ANN, DAVE S., BILL L.

**PHONES: BILL D., KIMO, KEVIN M.,
WENDY, TINA G., RICH, KRISTINA,
MATTY.**

Keep Coming Back

Contact *Maui Serenity*
Gazette

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Wailuku, HI 96793

The Maui Serenity Gazette is
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down.. We also print a number of
copies for those without comput-
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free copy. To register for FREE
email delivery, send your email
address to: info@aamaui.org.

The Gazette is also online at:
aamaui.org/gazette

You can contribute articles on any
A.A. subject. Anything you wish

to submit should be received by
the end of each month to be in-
cluded the next month. Full Sub-
mission Guidelines are also on
the website listed above.

Articles are not intended to be state-
ments of A.A. policy, nor does pub-
lication of any article imply en-
dorsement by either AA or the Maui
Serenity Gazette. Please submit any
criticism or suggestions without
hesitation.

KEEP IT SIMPLE
ONE DAY AT A TIME