



Maui Serenity Gazette

JULY 2024

AA ON MAUI

CENTRAL OFFICE

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. & Fri.
10a—4p
Thurs.
10a—1p
Sat.
10a—1p

Please call ahead

Phones operate
24/7
808.244.9673

AA Meeting Schedules are available
online:

aamaui.org

email:

info@aamaui.org

**AA approved
literature
is available for
purchase at
Central Office.**

We accept cash
and checks only.

Step Seven : “Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

When I was newly sober, I looked at the steps as tools to beat myself up. My low self-esteem found them (wrongly) perfect to put the magnifying glass on myself. Under that microscope, I could only see what I felt. I felt less than. I felt shame. I felt not worthy. Then, I was told by my sponsor that feelings aren't facts. That as I build my inner self, and continue to grow, I will be able to see the facts.

As I went through Steps One, Two, and Three, I found freedom in a daily reprieve from active alcohol and addiction. On that foundation, I was able to do other Steps, and finally arrived at Step 7: “humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings.”

We recently did Step 7 at my Friday night men's step meeting. I had the opportunity to reflect on the language and break it down.

Humbly - Humble to me in the past was a kind groveling, obsequiousness. It was the opposite of bragging. To be humble was to never acknowledge positive things about myself. That was until my sponsor told me



that humility was honestly acknowledging our limitations and shortcomings—but being humble is also being honest about what our strengths and virtues are. It is the ability to make an honest self-assessment. (Not an easy task when my pride, fear or self-centeredness gets in my way!)

Step 7 encourages us to let go of pride and accept that we cannot overcome our shortcomings on our own.

Asking - the Action of Asking for me was very difficult in the beginning, and depending on my spiritual wellness, it sometimes still can be. "Closed mouths don't get fed" is an expression that I know to be true from experience. I must open my spiritual mouth through prayer and meditation, attending meetings, sharing, and practicing the Steps, for me to be spiritually "fed". By asking to have my defects removed, I am clearing a spiritual path for my own life to improve and to develop a closer relationship with my higher power and myself and others.

Him - my higher power before I got sober was that stereotypical punishing God, who kept score

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of everything, got revenge, and never let me know the rules of life. One of the first things I did in early sobriety was fire "him". I replaced him with what I called HP. And, in my mind's eye, he was dressed like an old movie producer. He had a monocle, jodhpurs, a riding crop, and sat in a director's chair with HP stenciled on the back. You gotta love new sobriety thinking! As I have progressed in sobriety, my higher power has become a loving force, who truly is there for me, and will provide me with everything I need (not necessarily what I want). But somehow what I want has changed dramatically too. Whether "he" is the universe, my higher self in disguise, or the connected power of recovering people, I can ask that power for all the help I need. It is a wonderful feeling that I am infinitely loved by my higher power. So why wouldn't I ask HP to remove my shortcomings?

I find that Step 7 isn't about picking and choosing which parts of myself to keep or discard like I am at a spiritual flea market. It's about letting go of the things that hold me back—those old habits and attitudes that no longer serve me, and usually cause me discomfort or discontent. It's about becoming the best version of myself, one humble request at a time. My shortcomings are varied, and sometimes go away forever, and sometimes return. I am not afraid of my shortcomings anymore, ever since my sponsor told me in the beginning that I am perfectly imperfect (what a relief) and that I will never be perfect. But he also said that when the shortcomings cause enough pain, I will work on getting rid of them. Thankfully, as time has passed, my threshold for pain is so low that I can't be with my shortcomings for long periods. I trust in the process of Step 7 and am grateful to have a guide for living. Today it is less about expecting instant change and more about cultivating an open heart and a willingness to improve.

- Marc A.



Maui Intergroup Announcements

Please note our new office hours on page 9

We are currently seeking **in office** volunteers for the following days and hours:

Tuesday 10a-1p

Wednesday 10a-1p

Requirements: 1yr continuous sobriety and 1yr Maui residency.

If you'd like to volunteer at Central Office, please email us :

info@aamaui.org



Meeting Guide is a free-of-charge meeting 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.



More Information/Island Contacts

Oahu AA

808. 946. 1438

oahuaa.org

West Hawai'i AA (Kona)

808. 329. 1212

westhawaiiaa.org

Kaua'i AA

808. 245. 6677

kauaiaa.org

East Hawai'i AA (Hilo & Puna)

808. 961. 6133

easthawaiiaa.org

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Maui A.A. Intergroup of Hawaii, Inc.



Where to Send Contributions:

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. ser-
vice.

**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 ser-
vices, district, area, and the
General Service Office re-
main self-supporting. This
keeps**

A.A. free of outside influ-
ences that might divert us
from our
primary purpose —
to help the alcoholic who
still suffers.

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

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

[CLICK HERE](#)

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
Trisland District #13 P.O. Box 11814, Lahaina, HI 96761

Contributions to GSO

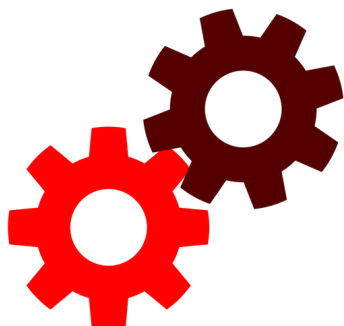
Make checks payable to:
GENERAL FUND
General Service Office
PO BOX 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

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!

Material from GSO



INSIDE ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Where Money and Spirituality Mix

How can groups participate?

To help support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation.

Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of (for example, rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, Grapevine literature, local meeting lists, GSR travel expenses to attend service functions) and a "prudent reserve" has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to fur-

ther carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities:

- The local district, which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the GSRs.
- The area committee, which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area; sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference; holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship; and provides information at all levels of service.
- The local intergroup or central office, which may provide phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordi-

nates group activities; and facilitates A.A. literature sales, institutions work, public information, and cooperation with the professional community activities.

- A.A.'s General Service Board, which distributes funds to the General Service Office (GSO), which functions as a storehouse of A.A. information, communicating with members and groups around the world; publishes A.A.'s literature; and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

- source www.aa.org



HELPFUL HINTS

(AA LITERATURE/Public Information to share)

Do you ever feel too tired to read something your sponsor has suggested you read like Page 417 in the big book every night before you go to sleep?

Is the chapter, like Bill's Story, a sleeper for you and you just can't get yourself to read the whole thing? (When I was 23, by the way, and new around here, that was the truth for me.)

Are you ever in too much of a hurry to create the time to read the body of a title of a story in the back of the book that catches your interest?

Do you ever encounter a writing that could be said in much fewer words and would take too much time to read so you just skip it?

Is the print of an article sometimes too small to read and you haven't surrendered to "reader" glasses from Longs?

Do you have a disability that makes it impossible for you to access much of the available literature?

If any of these five questions are a "yes" for you, you might be as grateful as I am for the improvements that are happening in the world of Accessibility.

While many of us do not necessarily have a documented learning disability or physical disability or anything they want labeled in any way whatsoever, we can all definitely benefit from listening to paragraphs while driving, walking, etc ...

Here are a few helpful examples of alternate Receivability Options now available.

aa.org or (<https://www.aa.org>)

1. Accept AA "cookies" (this will just transfer information to your device faster)
2. Scroll down to THE BIG BOOK (<https://www.aa.org/the-big-book>)
3. Scroll down to Read Watch Listen
4. Select Listen
5. Scroll down to Chapters
6. Scroll down to Chapter One - Bill's Story
7. Touch the arrow on the left and turn up your volume

FYI: When you find something online that you want to read, check the upper right hand corner. Those three dots might contain an option for Read To Me or Listen. Try mouse around!

Love, Pamela B.
Maui, Hawaii

TRADITION SEVEN: EVERY A.A. GROUP OUGHT TO BE FULLY SELF- SUPPORTING, DECLINING OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTIONS.

When I was new, before I really began studying the Traditions with my sponsor, the 7th Tradition was one I didn't fully understand. At every meeting I put a dollar or two in the basket, and even when I was completely broke it seemed I always had at least a dollar. But I was not clear on where the donations went. The word "Splits" meant nothing to me. I knew there was rent to pay, and coffee to be purchased, but what happens to the rest? At my beach meeting I thought we had no expenses at all. I didn't realize our group purchased its brochures and books from Central Office and sent the rest out to different entities of Alcoholics Anonymous. Hey, I was new, I had no idea about **anything!** But I was eager to learn.

What really helped me was when I became the treasurer of my home group. I called the Central Office to get the addresses of where I was to send money, because our group conscience decided what percentages to send out. (AH HA! Splits!) At the end of the month there shouldn't be any money left over. That's when I understood that the basket that gets passed at each meeting helps support **ALL** of AA. It's the only way we can continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Tradition 5 says in a nutshell that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. To do that AA needs to keep its doors open. Having a local Central Office is a **necessity**. Someone is available by phone 24/7. The manager keeps updated information available to all of us via the website. There are office hours that are posted on the door and available on the website, so anyone can go in person to buy literature, ask questions, and newcomers can walk in and learn about our program. The manager needs to be paid, rent needs to be paid, literature needs to be purchased so individuals and groups can purchase AA approved literature. If groups do not support their local Central Office, we would be in danger of closing its doors. Although we have volunteers who assist with phones and some office hours, there must be organization for our local AA, and that costs money. Our newcomers need to have access to our Central Office so they can talk to someone - be it face to face or on the phone. Money is also donated to the General Service Office in New York. Where would AA be if GSO had never become organized? I would probably be dead; I was well on my way. I think of the incredible lengths I went to for booze and the amount of money I wasted on booze and drugs while I was out there. I was homeless for several years because money for booze came before anything else. So, when the basket gets passed, I feel honored to give back to the program that saved my life. Alcoholics Anonymous has given me a really good life, and the 7th tradition is something I can use every day. I pay my own bills, I keep my job, I pay for the roof over my head and the food in my stomach. I no longer call and beg my family for money.

Then there comes the decision made decades ago that we don't accept outside contributions. There are many non-AA members who would like to help and donate, even larger companies could possibly help us pay the bills. On page 164 of the 12 X 12 it says, "Whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune." So the reason should be clear. Once money becomes involved its human nature to start wanting to call the shots or offer unwanted opinions from people who know nothing about the disease of alcoholism and the program that helps keep us sober. And we have managed, for 89 years, to take care of ourselves! Without ANY outside

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contributions. Even as broke as AA was in the beginning, look at us now. It works, it really does.

Each month I receive the Serenity Gazette in my email. I make it a point to read the Treasurers report and the contributions made to our Central Office. There are many months when they do not receive enough contributions to pay the bills. Though I know the 7th tradition is voluntary, and not every member is able to contribute, I can't imagine a group doesn't even have a few bucks to send in. I also realize some groups have high rent and low attendance; their supply costs are high. But beach meetings and Zoom meetings have almost no expenses, so it would seem contributions would be being made. (If your group is having difficulty at the bank, cash is accepted at Central Office). I am the treasurer of a zoom meeting, and we make it very easy for the members to donate. Keep in mind that during Covid zoom meetings allowed an incredible number of us able to attend meetings, and I have friends that got sober during Covid. When I see the limited number of groups sending in contributions I often wonder if it's as simple as the treasurer of the groups need to be more informed. Something to think about.

Dave D. always said that the steps are to save the individual, and the traditions are to save us from the enemy, and the enemy is us. The traditions are the glue that holds AA together. I am so glad I have a sponsor who studied the traditions with me.

- Kristina J.



WHAT'S SERVICE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Join Us for a Celebration of AA Unity
And the Spirit of Service

Delicious Catered Lunch Will Be Served

Sunday August 18, 2024
11:00 – 1:30

KENOLIO HALL
131 South Kihei Road

Panel Discussion, Skits, Fun and Fellowship

Hosted by The Kihei District



Maui Intergroup Meeting Minutes June 8, 2024

Call To Order: 6:02pm by Dave (Co-Chair)
Open with Serenity Prayer, Maui AA Intergroup Preamble

PRESENT: Dave, Co-Chair; Michelle, C.O.; Karen, Recording Secretary; Ben, Maui Sunset; Kimo, Hair of the Dog; Pat, 11th Step Meditation; Kevin, Kihei Sunday Beach; Diana, Something Better than Gold; Jenn, AA Way of Life; Brooks, Upcountry Sunrise; Mark, High in the Sky; Bonnie, Sisters of Sobriety; Terry, New Awakenings; Jimmy James, Dist. 11 Alt DCM; Portia, Happy Hour; Kim, HICYPAA/449 Acceptance.

Introductions of Steering Committee and Intergroup Reps

Prior Meeting Minutes - Motion to accept: Approved w/change; Founders Day date changed from June 5 (typo) to June 9.

Steering Committee Report: Co-Chair, Dave. NONE

Treasurer's Report: Jim absent, Michelle gave report. Motion to accept: Approved.

Central Office Report: Michelle: 7th Step and 7th Tradition articles to be published in the Gazette. Central Office now open 6 days a week.

Hawaii Area/Maui District Reports:

Kimo (Area 17 PI Rep): if a group needs an interpreter, there are funds available.

Jimmy James (Dist. 11 Alt. DCM): In Sept. voting on budget. District 11 meeting meets in the same office as Intergroup.

Intergroup Rep Reports:

Ben, Maui Sunset: Everything is running well.

Pat, 11th Step Meditation: Good attendance: Tuesday secretary needed.

Kimo, Hair of the Dog: Attendance falling, good speakers

Kevin, Kihei Sunday Beach: GSR needed.

Jenn, AA Way of Life: all good.

Mark, High in the Sky: Need positions filled, getting finances filled.

Portia, Happy Hour: Good attendance, need secretaries, hosting 4th of July BBQ

Bonnie, Sisters of Sobriety: Sending 7 tradition check in.

Terry, New Awakenings: need positions filled.

Kim, HICYPAA: have lots of volunteers, Website: HICYPAA2024, Heritage Hall, they have donations for scholarships. 449/Acceptance; getting it going.

Brooks, Upcountry Sunrise: group would like to host Gratitude Night in December at Tavares Center, will coordinate with Intergroup.

Karen, Live Saturday Night Wailuku: Good attendance including 2-3 Mana House Recovery Group, need positions filled

Old Business:

Founders Day: 11-4:00, Pot luck 12:00, Speakers 1:00 - 2:45 Delegate Report Back

New Business:

Gratitude Night

Motion to adjourn: Approved

Next Meeting: July 13, 2024 in person.

Close with Declaration of Unity.

CONTRIBUTING GROUPS	June	2024 YTD
11th Step Meditation Kihei	\$100.40	\$1,419.80
11th Step Meditation Pukalani		\$106.00
Anonymous Contributions		\$1,100.00
Awakenings		\$0.00
At Some of These We Balked	\$100.00	\$100.00
Back to Basics		\$0.00
Big Book (online/zoom)		\$0.00
Can Do Maui-Lahaina Group		\$446.00
CDM Men's Stag North Shore		\$1,890.00
CDM Mens Stag Kihei		\$350.00
Club 449/Acceptance	\$291.09	\$291.09
Dawn Patrol		\$0.00
Emotional Sobriety		\$0.00
Gold Diggers		\$0.00
Hair of the Dog		\$378.00
Hana Group		\$0.00
Happy Hour	\$358.50	\$791.00
High In The Sky		\$0.00
Intergroup - Monthly Meeting	\$30.00	\$186.00
Kahana Sober Wahines		\$80.00
Kahana Spinners		\$400.00
Kihei Sunday Beach Group		\$554.50
Kihei Morning Serenity		\$416.59
K'ue Meeting	\$1,400.00	\$3,200.00
Ladies Night - Lahaina		\$0.00
Lahaina Whalers		\$120.00
L.I.T.S. Living in the Solution		\$0.00
Maui Sunset	\$200.00	\$1,011.84
Misfit Toys		\$688.00
Maui Strong		\$0.00
New Awakening		\$0.00
No Ka Oi Group		\$0.00
Ohana Group		\$2,861.26
Online Member Contributions	\$280.30	\$2,723.98
Paniolo Group		\$0.00
S. A. M. Meeting		\$220.00
Samurai's in Sobriety		\$0.00
Saturday Night Speakers		\$188.79
A Spiritual Awakening	\$8.00	\$165.40
Sober & Crazy		\$155.00
Something Better Than Gold	\$300.00	\$500.00
Sisters of Sobriety		\$75.00
To Thine Own Self Be True		\$600.00
TTOSB (online)		\$205.00
Twelve by Twelve/12x12 (online)		\$0.00
Upcountry Sunset		\$221.00
Upon Awakening		\$0.00
Upcountry Sunrise	\$85.00	\$376.00
Womens AA Meeting (online)		\$0.00
Wailuku Group		\$223.20
Wake Up Call		\$190.00
We Agnostics		\$0.00
Womens AA Way of Life		\$250.00
MONTHLY TOTAL	\$3,153.29	\$22,483.45

OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET

INFLOW: June	
Starting Balance	
Total Group Contributions	\$3,153.29
Founders Day contributions	\$335.00
Literature sales	\$495.00
TOTAL INFLOW/ MONTH	\$3,983.29
YEAR TO DATE INFLOW	\$25,306.40
OUTFLOW: June	
DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Mgr Salary 1st half	\$630.00
Haran Development (rent)	\$525.00
Office supplies (printer toner)	\$61.66
MOBI (office cell phone)	\$29.43
Hawaiian Tel	\$25.84
AAWS (literature)	\$684.71
IRS Federal Withholding	\$572.16
Hawaii State Withholding	\$188.30
Spectrum (Internet)	\$86.27
Mgr salary last 1/2 June	\$630.00
TOTAL OUTFLOW/MO.	\$2,803.37
YTD OUTFLOW	\$20,095.84
MONTH NET INFLOW:	\$1,179.92
YTD NET INFLOW:	\$5,210.56
ENDING BALANCE	\$16,533.99
Prudent Reserve	\$15,516.80

**Maui AA Intergroup thanks you
for your generous contributions!**

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



Maui Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office

N E W

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY	10 AM - 4 PM
TUESDAY	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	10 AM - 1 PM
FRIDAY	10 AM - 4 PM
SATURDAY	10 AM - 1 PM

Meeting schedules can be found at: AAMAUI.ORG



808 . 244 . 9673



**THANK YOU TO OUR
CENTRAL OFFICE
VOLUNTEERS!**

**OFFICE: ANN, JIMMY
JAMES.**

**PHONES: BILL D., KIMO,
PAMELA, KRISTINA,
JIM H., MATTY, JIMMY
JAMES.**

KEEP IT SIMPLE
ONE DAY AT A TIME

Keep Coming Back

Contact *Maui Serenity Gazette*
808-244-9673

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

The Maui Serenity Gazette is published monthly in electronic format in an effort to keep costs down.. We also print a number of copies for those without computers. See your Intergroup Rep for a 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 included the next month. Full Submission Guidelines are also on the website listed above.

Articles are not intended to be statements of A.A. policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or the Maui Serenity Gazette. Please submit any criticism or suggestions without hesitation.