

Approved Kauai District 6 Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2024
Lihue Lutheran Church

1. **Call to order:** Jim D, Alt DCM, called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M with the Declaration of Unity

a) Attendance: Jim D., Alt DCM; Mathea A, Grapevine Chair: Bob F., Treasurer/GSR Sunrise Sobriety; Doug H., GSR Hui `Ohana; Ann W., Intergroup Chair: Shoshanah B, District 6 Secretary, Jenn D, guest; Amy B, GSR Hybrid: at 1030h Charlie S was able to join the meeting hybrid 8 voting members present.

***Any new items to add to the Agenda?** Jim D proposal - to be discussed under Alt DCM

b) Reading of **Tradition Five** and checklist questions by Ann W

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Discussion followed: none

c) Reading of the **Concept V** and questions by Mathea A

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal," to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Discussion followed:

Mathea A spoke to each bullet point:

- We discuss it and we vote. We do well in this area.
- Substantial unanimity means 2/3 of voting people.
- Has our group experienced the tyranny of the majority/minority? It's up to the Chair to handle it. We try to avoid it. "The tyranny of the minority is really gossip."
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view before a vote is taken? The Chair is responsible for this. The chair must arrange for the person to talk.

2. **Secretary's Reports:** Shoshanah B, secretary. Mahalo for Web Chair for helping to get into our District 6 secretarial email address (Microsoft outlook) and will attempt to utilize it moving forward. The Draft of the April 2024 District 6 minutes were distributed via email to the mail distribution list. Printed copies were available at the meeting. The minutes were reviewed.

Mathea entertained the **Motion** to accept the April 2024 minutes as presented / corrected; seconded by Ann W. **Vote taken:** All were in favor. No abstentions/ passed unanimously. **Motion** carried.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Bob F- Bob distributed the April 2024 Treasurer's spreadsheet report via email and printed copies were also available at the meeting. See the spreadsheets for details. Treasurer's Report for the Month of April 2024:

- We started April with a Bank Balance of \$6114.82.
- We had 7th Tradition Contributions of \$169.00 from North Shore Aloha, 3rd Tradition Saturday Night,

Kapaa and Whiskey and Milk, Koloa.

- We had expenses of \$3862.20 which included our \$3250 contribution to GSB, DCM Assembly Airfare, reimbursement to Intergroup for Website Expenses and Office Supplies.
- Our Ending Balance was \$2421.62 and Current Operating Balance is \$1221.62.
- We have no outstanding Payables in the near future that I am aware of.
- I have been producing a financial statement by the 20th of the current month for Linda Bonds to include in the Garden Island Sobriety Newsletter.
- I've also attached a Thank You note to current 7th Tradition contributing Group Treasurers requesting an email contact address from them. I think it's important to acknowledge their contribution to the District. I notice the GSB sends a similar letter acknowledging our and individual Group contributions. I'm requesting the email address to save the 66 cents in postal rates for each Thank You note.

Mathea A entertained the **Motion** to accept the Treasurer's report as presented/corrected and was seconded by Ann W. **Vote** taken: All were in favor. No abstentions/ passed unanimously. **Motion** carried.

4. **Alt DCM Report:** Jim D: A proposal for the District Members to support this letter
 ALTERNATE DCM REPORT: Jim D presented the following **Proposal** for consideration and discussion. If accepted, it would be published in the next issue of the Garden Island Sobriety Newsletter:

The May intergroup meeting featured a discussion about the equipment purchased to allow us to provide hybrid (in-person and online) meetings. It was determined that discussions should be held with interested parties about the future of this technology since its popularity has waned over the course of the 17 months we have been meeting, but that this discussion be framed by the questions of how we might use this technology to "carry the message" during panel 75.

Another part of the agenda encompassed a discussion about scheduling. It was suggested that we encourage members to first view our national ("AA as a whole") events and then Area 17 events in order that we avoid "bumping heads" wherever possible.

And this leads us to the present discussion: **Panel 73 is entering its final quarter of service!** It is time to consider the election of trusted servants for the coming panel, Panel 75. Kauai District 6 has put together this letter to encourage our members to fully engage in this exciting period of AA activity.

Here are some highlights of the plans for Panel 75:

- After having suffered the cancellation of the 2020 International Convention in Detroit due to the pandemic, the 2025 Convention is planned for Vancouver, BC July 3-6, 2025.
- Area 17 will be hosting PRAASA the first weekend in March, 2026.
- We will continue to participate in the General Service Conference and prepare a delegate for that role.
- Planning is in progress for the 2025 Hawaii State Convention in the Fall of 2025.
- The Delegate and Area officers will be chosen at the Election Assembly October 19-20, 2024. This means our district should elect its DCM in September if we are to follow the suggestions of the Service Manual and allow our leadership to participate in the selection of the Area's leaders.

Clearly things are moving forward rapidly but we have demonstrated our strength and resilience as we reconstruct in the wake of the pandemic and our District is looking forward with enthusiasm!

We want to urge both groups and individual members to review the pamphlet "The AA Group" and the Structure and Guidelines for both Area 17 and Kauai District 6 to determine avenues of participation for the next panel and to bring those decisions to our meetings on the third Saturday of the coming months. We need members to stand for the four elected positions (DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary and Treasurer) at the September meeting.

Discussion followed:

Mathea – the timelines expressed are reasonable. The only pressing one is electing a DCM by Sept 2024. District 6 has a history of running late. That means the Home groups need to elect their officers.

Bob F- this is good. I agree. I look around the room and we are just a drop in the bucket of the candidates out there. How do those potential people get into service when possibly they don't have good examples to do it? How do we get them to get to attend our District or Intergroup meeting?

Shoshanah B – agreed we need new faces. Perhaps we can use the Labor Day event or even earlier events to carry this message. Maybe have a “gripe session” to find out what keeps people from standing as a District Committee Member or Intergroup. We need more help carrying the message.

Ann W – I have no answer but I have been listening to the same complaint close to 44 years now. It’s easier to find candidates to stand for service positions in places where the AA population is bigger. Everyone has a reason that they are too busy. Everyone here has some kind of “to-do list”, and, yet, we are sitting here because sobriety gave us the privilege to be able to do this. Take this back to our groups and “make them listen”.

Amy B – our home group had a fun game this morning to elect an Alternate GSR. Everyone who qualified for the position stood up, which was everyone. The position got filled and the members enjoyed participating.

Jenn D – On Hawai`i Island, people don’t stand for positions. In Virginia, 10% of the people do 90% of the work. You can’t make people care. The people in this room really care about AA. How do we make this attractive, especially to people who haven’t done service outside of their home group?

Doug H – this is a courtship. Whatever we are doing, it needs to change a little, at least. It all starts by us getting out there and banging on doors. The only way is through sacrifice. We need to find the right people; to get some fresh people – thru our actions, through our positive vibes. There is no right or wrong way. We have to go to all the meetings we can and get the word out. It ebbs and flows. Maybe we need to go to these meetings as a group.

Discussion:

Jim – likes the notion of a gripe session. I look around the room and I know what happened to you – some individual came up to you and you were “volun-told” to do the job. We can enlist people by saying, “Look, we got this opportunity and we need you to do this”. Our principal difficulties are selfishness and self-centeredness which is the opposite of service. We come because we are desperate and over time, we learn to give. People balked at doing the steps, and this is no different. Is AA a flat triangle? I think we should have fun.

Additional comments/suggestions:

We don’t have good representation at the our meetings

Caravan as a group to meetings around the island was suggested

Any event with food brings people. The Labor Day Event has been well attended.

Mathea suggests that we share some of the 6 videos: the youth, the doctors, the police. They are listed in the GSC report: We can order them from GSO. Most people at the table were in support of this idea.

All the members present agreed in the message presented and the **Proposal** to have the letter published in the next issue of the GIS Newsletter was **Unanimously accepted**. Plan: Jim D to contact Linda B, Editor, and send her the document to be printed.

Jim also reminded us that we need to schedule the Delegate report back. Tommy G., Area 17 Delegate, is available in July and said that the DCM will take care of it after she gets back. Maybe we can pick a late July date. Bob F volunteered to make the arrangements and Mathea reminded us that we will need to reserve a pavilion, plan the food, create a flier, and enlist volunteers.

Further group comments included reminding us that last year’s Delegate Report Back, held in Kilauea, was well attended. We also had a very successful Hybrid Kupuna Day gathering at Lydgate Park.

The discussion moved into the challenges of finding volunteers as we, at District, do not have all the Standing Chair positions filled and less than 50% GSR participation.

- Bob F commented that “When you are looking at people face to face, it’s easier to get a volunteer. GSR’s know who the 10% of the people who are willing to do the work.”
- Jim D commented that “we might want to consider combining Intergroup and District. In the past, some members felt that the meeting would be too long and I don’t think the meetings would be too long. I think they would be shorter. Most of the things that Intergroup does can fit in easily with the District: Literature and PI. 90 % of the work requires all of us.” The Intergroup Chair suggested that this topic would need to be presented to Intergroup and can be put on the Agenda.
- Jenn D noted that “New Hampshire has no Intergroup. Their Hotline is run by the Area.”

5. Intergroup Report: Ann W: meeting held on May 4, 2024 with 9 people in attendance.

Written Report from May 4, 2024 as follows:

Treasury Report: Operating Balance \$ 3341.03

Hotline: Sean G, manager. Here is his report:

- Weekday volunteers report approximately 2 calls per month
- Weekends (Friday – Sunday) 2-3 calls per weekend
- Calls are from visitors looking for directions; newcomers looking for a first meeting; questions about events; an occasional intoxicated individual who will hang up during the call.

Schedules: printing up another 500 copies

Literature:

New co-chairs for the Literature Committee: Benita A. from Sunrise Sobriety (707-684-6682) and Jeanne L from Hui Ohana (808-652-0216). They have placed an order for Literature supplies and will be doing an inventory. The order has been delivered and unpacked in the locker.

Ann will put an article in the upcoming GIS Newsletter to inform folks about the Literature and how to reach the co-chairs.

Hybrid Access: Group discussion about issues related to hybrid access and managing IT for Kauai AA

Women's Retreat: taking place this weekend

Founder's Day: need people to register; flier and registration information on kuaiaa.org

Mathea reminded us that, in the past, the schedules and GIS newsletter were brought to both the Intergroup and District meetings and the Chair was in charge of this.

Jim recollected that in the past, we shared these distribution responsibilities. At some point, Intergroup took over this.

Doug reported that he brings GIS newsletters to every meeting that he attends. He reminded us that both Kilauea and the Men's meeting have no representation.

Mathea volunteers to bring paper schedules and GIS newsletter to the District meetings so we can distribute them to our Groups and meetings that we attend.

6. **DCM Report:** Anastasia A - In attendance at Area 17 Committee Meeting on Maui.

7. **GSR Reports:**

- Anahola Jaywalkers – Kathryn F, not present
- Happy Hour – Jim D reporting - meets Wednesdays (Big Book) and Thursdays (12 and 12). The meetings have been small but fun. We get people off the cruise boat. It's been raining like crazy. Jim will be off island for 10 days or so, and Jeannie L will take over while I'm gone.
- Hui `Ohana – Doug H GSR: meetings every day at 7 am both online and in person. In-person meetings are different than those listed on the chair app. James B is the Alt GSR. We have started a NEW evening Meeting at Lydgate on Fridays at 6:30pm and we are grilling hot dogs at 5:30pm. We have successfully shared the service for the DUI education course and we ask members if they want to speak. Mathea says that falls under Public Information (presently vacant Committee Chair position) and supports Doug becoming our PI Chair.
- Hui Ohana Virtual – Jim mentions Tradition 4 and asked for the Virtual report to be included in the GSR report since they are one group with one GSR. Shoshanah B was informed by the Meeting Chair that, as a representative from the Hui `Ohana Virtual group, she could not give a separate report since Hui `Ohana and Hui `Ohana Virtual is one group with one GSR and that GSR is given the Home Group report to the District meeting. Shoshanah understood and said that Doug H will have the Virtual meetings' written report for their end of the month business meeting to prepare for next month's District report.
- Koloa Aloha – Laurel B, GSR: not present. Ann W. reported; we are growing. All the seats around the tables were filled with visitors and locals. The treasury is sound. We are carrying the message.
- Na Wahine Ku Pono – Amy B, GSR: reported that about 20-25 women are in attendance. She thinks of all the women and who could be of service. The retreat had 29 people overnight and 10 day-trippers.
- Saturday Sober Sisters – Annie C, GSR: absent with written report provided: Saturday Sober Sisters has a change of venue. Since the flooding at Lydgate raised motherly concerns about babies crawling around on the ground were raised, and, until further notice, their meetings are being held at the Wailua Houselots Park. Attendance has been predictably light as a result. No other news to report. Since Annie is serving on the Area Mynah Bird committee, she attached a copy of the Mynah Bird to her report. A printed copy was available at the meeting and can be found at Area17aa.org under Mynah Bird.
- Sunrise Sobriety – Bob F, GSR: written report provided:

We had our first Group Conscience Meeting since February this morning and it was a very good meeting with healthy discussion. We continue with 7 face to face meetings and 7 virtual on-line meetings weekly. We try to stay on the format that is on the meeting guide App. The meeting in the Park is well attended daily averaging 15-24 sober alcoholics. 1/3 are less than a year sober and 50 % are visitors returning to our meeting. The virtual meeting has 6-12 members from the US mainland and Hawaii. We have a member that has volunteered to compose a history of Sunrise Sobriety for the District Archives. Kathryn is our Intergroup Representative. Benita has volunteered to co-chair our Intergroup Literature Storeroom. We are an active group and support the other groups in the Koloa-Po'ipu area.

- Waimea Canyon Group – Shoshanah B reporting: meetings in Waimea and Kekaha are well attended with visitors and newcomers. The Wednesday meeting at Salt Pond has been inconsistent due to weather and other challenges.

Discussion followed GSR reports about the 5pm Happy Hour meeting at Nawiliwili and how people used to get referred to it from Dr McKenna's recovery program when he was alive. It was close by and easy to get to. The Cruise ships also brought members. Then COVID happened and people stopped getting off the ship and other referral sources for Happy Hour disappeared. Ann W mentioned that Lani, MSW, used to work at McKenna's recovery program and is now working for Hawaii Health (HHSC). HHSC runs both State Hospitals on Kauai, KVMH and SMMH (Mahelona) and several other clinics. They have opened an outpatient behavioral health service and Lani is the Clinical Director of it. Ann will see what she can find out and report back.

8. Standing Committee Reports

Archives: *position vacant*

Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC): *position vacant*

Corrections: From Garrett: "We are enjoying our travels. We left Spain and are in Washington, DC for a few more days. Will be back on Kaua'i on 5/21. Only a few people have activated their eligibility to enter the jail. Am not sure exactly who they are and will find out more upon my return."

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC): *position vacant*

Grapevine: Mathea A, Grapevine Chair: Mathea shared a joke from the Grapevine. Description: There are 2 cars in the parking lot and 10 chairs set up. The Speaker at the podium says, "Whose bright idea was it to have a meeting with no coffee?" Mathea also passed around copies of the March 13, 2024 Grapevine Daily Quote: "A religious, or spiritual experience, is the act of giving up reliance on one's own omnipotence. " Dr. Harry Tiebout, September, 1944, Comments on Wylie Ideas", [The Language Of The Heart](#). The daily email Grapevine App is free at AAGrapevine.org. She finds it very helpful to have this daily reminder that she is a member of AA and of the principles and joys of the AA program. A new message appears every day on the email, is just one or two paragraphs. It always has excerpts from our AA Traditions and Literature. When she attends PRAASA, she sees more people using the Grapevine App than here.

Mynah Bird: *position vacant*. Annie C, GSR, is a new member of Area 17 Mynah Bird Committee. Mynah Bird is a monthly Area 17 electronic newsletter that is a vehicle for carrying the message. A copy is available at today's meeting for review. Annie invites our members to write out their stories and to pass it on to their groups.

PI (Public Information): *position vacant*

Treatment Settings Special Needs: *position vacant*

Website: Web Chairperson, Charlie S –

We experienced difficulties with the old zoom account as it went to a locked (David's) waiting room when trying to log in today for the Hybrid meeting. We, District and Intergroup, paid, for a new Zoom account and it has a new log in for both District and Intergroup with a new meeting ID and Password and no waiting room so all can join directly. Charlie was able to log on with us today and gave our first District Website report via Hybrid format. The new meeting ID and password and link is posted on the website and AA Chair app. June 1st we will begin Hosting the Intergroup monthly meeting as well. Charlie asked for advanced notice for Events to be posted on the website.

9. Old Business:

- On-going vacant Standing Committee Chairs and Member / GSR's participation. See list of vacant positions above.
- **2024 Kaua'i Round Up** June 6-9, 2024. Mike T, Events Chair. 808.635.6059. Printed Registration forms are available and being distributed.
- PRAASA 2026 - Hawai'i is hosting. Kunane D is Chair. Need hundreds of people.
- May Committee Meeting - May 18th, 2024. Hosted by District 5, No Ka Oi, Maui. Held at Paia Community Center, 252 Hana Hwy, Paia, HI 96779
- October 2025 optional committee meeting will be determined in the future. Mathea shared the history of the business meeting in a non-election year: since next year is the inventory year, there will probably not be an additional assembly or committee meeting in the fall. Kauai is scheduled to host it if it is held.

10. New Business:

Doug H wanted clarification:

1. Is there a way for us to show some presence at some of the meetings that are on the Chair App? I.E. going to these meetings and sharing some of the handouts and our enthusiasm? He said that the Chair App has some other "unsanctioned" meetings, meaning "word of mouth" meetings. Ann W explained that some groups do not have a group number. Doug asked, "Can we split the island up in sectors and get them aware and support the meetings that aren't well attended or represented?" Additional comments: Our Schedules have all the meetings listed. Doug said that he will cover from his house north and go to all the meetings on the schedule and that he has heard about.

Jim D would like to defer electing Doug as PI chair until DCM returns next month. Jim got a message from the Supervisor of the court who called the Hotline for schedules and got no response. Ann W suggested that Jim trace back the day and time specifically which might be useful to see how the "ball got dropped". In his Hotline experience of answering the phone, Jim doesn't know if the "manual" of how to is still given to the volunteers. Jim did deliver the Schedules to the Court Supervisor.

2. Doug asked about the new group form as he/Hui `Ohana wants to start a new meeting- Friday nights at Lydgate, 5:30pm hot dogs/6pm meeting. Jim D gave him the information on how to register a new group. Discussion followed about a new meeting being added to your Home Group with suggestions to announce it and add to the schedule after a few consistent months.

3. Doug talked about the intergroup/district merger and suggested that it be an agenda item. Ann W says that it has been brought up at Intergroup in the past and it can be brought up to Intergroup again. Ann W suggested that he talk to Jim D who wrote up the proposal and will put on the June 1st Intergroup Meeting Agenda.

11. **GSR/District concerns:** none

12. **Announcements/What to take back:**

- Hui `Ohana has started a **NEW** evening **Meeting** at Lydgate on Fridays at 6:30pm and we are grilling hot dogs at 5:30pm. Come check them out and support this new meeting.
- Attend meetings other than your regular ones and share your love and enthusiasm for AA, bring copies of the Mynah Bird, the GIS Newsletter, schedules, and The GROUP pamphlet, etc to share.
- Hybrid is happening for our District 6 and Intergroup meetings moving forward. Anyone who would like to attend from the comfort of their home or device can join us on Zoom via our website <https://kauaiaa.org/> click on More on the top banner and select Intergroup or District (meeting # ID is the same). Meeting ID# 727 056 4300 Password: 121212
- **2024 Kaula Round Up** is set for June 6-9, 2024. Printed registration forms are being distributed. Visit www.kauaiaa.org website under Announcements for registration and QR code.
- District needs participation from the Home Groups/members to stand for Standing Committee Chairs. See list of vacant positions above

13. **Meeting Adjourned:** Ann W entertained a **Motion** to close the meeting; seconded by Mathea A. No objections or abstentions. Meeting closed at 1145h.

Closing with the **Responsibility Pledge:** *I am responsible when anyone anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.*

Next District Meeting will be held on June 15, 2024 at 9:30 am at the Lihu`e Lutheran Church on German Hill, 4602 Ho`omana Rd, Lihu`e, HI 96766

Respectfully submitted by

Susan H. Barretto
Secretary, District 6
Hawai`i Area 17
Panel 73