April, 2024 H&I Report

The only purpose of the Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee is to carry the message of AA to alcoholics in Corrections and Treatment facilities and facilities serving alcoholics in Northern CA. Here in Tulare County (Area 93), we do this by conducting AA meetings in the facilities we serve. Currently we hold 17 meetings monthly in 7 facilities and Tulare County Jail, utilize approximately 35 volunteers and distribute an average of 100 AA Books (Big Book, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Daily Reflections and Living Sober in English and Spanish) per month along with Grapevines and LaVinas. H&I volunteers from Tulare County also hold approximately 10 meetings monthly at Corcoran, STAF and Avenal prisons. The meetings and books are in English and Spanish.

H&I activities are fully supported by funds collected from passing the pink cans at AA meetings from Tulare County to the Oregon Border as established in 1957. Prior to 1957, H&I volunteers had to either provide the literature for the H&I meetings themselves or beg it from their groups, often stretching the groups’ funds beyond their ability to pay for other AA services. The pink can funds are sent to NorCal H&I in San Francisco. Our Area and Prison Coordinators request needed literature and it is sent to us straight for AAWS. We are blessed that we operate as one committee. In 2023, Tulare County and the prisons we serve distributed $21,000 in literature and the pink can contributions from our area was $7,300.

At times we hear, “H&I is not part of AA.” It is true that NorCal H&I is not part of the General Service Structure. We operate as an AA service entity, governed by the Twelve Traditions, and based on the spiritual principles embodied within the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are “directly responsible to those we serve” as outlined in the ninth tradition, the AA fellowship of Northern California which funds our activities. A point of reference as to what this means is our Central Office which also operates as AA service entity, “directly responsible to those they serve” as outlined in the ninth tradition. Central Office also is not part of the General Service Structure. We support Central Office with 7th Tradition Funds while H&I is funded by the pink can passed separately to not detract from our 7th Tradition responsibilities.

The NorCal H&I Committee was formed in 1946 to unify the procedures for those who are interested in this type of Twelfth Step work and avoid confusion and duplication of effort. Simply put, we take meetings inside facilities to carry the message of AA to those who have a desire to stop drinking. We have long standing agreements with Bridging the Gap and PI/CPC and will honor those but will stay true to our policies and procedures and those of the facilities we serve.

To continue to grow, we need more volunteers. Please share this with your groups and send any interested volunteers to our next orientation: May 11, 2024; 9:00 am; at 526 N. Bridge Street, Visalia, CA 93291. This information is also listed on the Tulare County Website at aa-tulareco.org. Please encourage all Tulare County AA groups to pass the pink can. If pink cans are needed, please contact Central Office or myself.

In Service,

Joyce R.

Area 93 H&I Chair