

Tulare County Hospital & Institution Committee Minutes
February 8, 2020 9:00 am, Visalia Alano Club

Opening: Joyce R. opened the meeting at 9:00 am with a moment of silence in gratitude for service and the confined alcoholic who still suffers, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Statement of Purpose: Brad W. read the H&I Statement of Purpose.

Twelve Traditions: Alice S. read the A.A. Twelve Traditions

Introductions/Sign In: Introductions of first-time attendees and out of town members were made while the sign in sheet was passed. In attendance per sign in sheet were:

Joyce R.	Justin R.	Tommy S.	Mike W.
Boo M.	Joe G.	David G.	Jeff Q.
Hector C.	Jim L.	Brad W.	Rafael D.
Alice S.	Diana Z.	Tracy W.	Melanie M.
Rafael F.	Clayton N.	Kelly L.	Fred F.
Debbie G.	Patrick S.	Pam B.	Gary B.
Sean A.			

Anniversaries/Pass the Basket: The basket was passed to observe the 7th tradition along with the Pink Can. Sobriety anniversaries recognized: Clayton N. 4-years 1/27; Pam B. 10-years 2/5; Patrick S. 22-years 1/5; Fred F. 25-years 1/24.

Approval of Minutes: Time was given for members to review the minutes of the December 14, 2019 meeting provided in the meeting packet. Upon motion being duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote.

Reports:

Area Chair Report: - Joyce reported that since our October 12, 2019 meeting, as a committee we have come to understand that we operate as part of the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee. NorCal is a service committee responsible to the A.A. fellowship which funds our activities through the passing of the Pink Can at meetings. The purpose of our committee is to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who is confined. Our committee covers from the Oregon Border to Tulare County. The Steering Committee executes the operations of the NorCal Committee. Our Area is represented, on the Steering Committee, by a Regional Chair, who we participate in electing. The General Committee is the final deciding body, and any active H&I volunteer can participate at the General Committee level. Jeff L., our current General Chair, attended our October 12, 2019 meeting, and shared with us the scope of work of our committee and encouraged our participation. Since that time, our committee meetings have tripled in attendance; Tulare County AA Groups are sending their representatives to our business meetings; monthly articles are submitted to the Tulare County Newsletter; our activities now include Mothering Heights & Mental Health Wellness and Recovery Center; we have implemented a healthy rotation of service for our service positions; opened communication with the Spanish Region 190 to encourage Spanish Speaking Meetings in our facilities; H&I orientations are being held regularly with over 30 volunteers having attended to date; we are hosting the February 9, 2020 NorCal General Committee Meeting. The growth our local committee has experience in just 4 months is reflective of the unity of our committee which is outlined in our policies and procedures. As our committee continues to grow, it is important to remember the volunteers who have participated for over 30 years in H&I in our Area keeping it alive so the doors were open for all to participate. We had a years of participation countdown to recognize volunteer participation length of time. Joyce will report the number of years, we have participated at each facility as reports are given.

*** Joyce requested that each Facility Coordinator e-mail the names of volunteers who participated on panels beginning December, 2019, and monthly going forward to report accurately the number of volunteers for our annual Form 2.

Tulare County Women's Coordinator – Diana Z. reported that there are currently 8 active women volunteers taking meetings into Tulare County Jail and Pre-Trial weekly on Friday Evenings. There are currently 2 applications in process.

Tulare County Men's Coordinator – Historically, we have been taking meetings to Tulare County Jail since 1988. Patrick S. reported that currently there are 8 men badged, and meetings are being held at Pre-Trial 2 to 3 times a month on Saturday Evenings. There are currently 2 applications in process.

Turning Point – Historically, we have been taking meetings to Turing Point since 2008. Jim L. reported that they are taking meetings into Turning Point on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. He has a list of orientated volunteers and is rotating them but utilizes a couple of faithful volunteers regularly generally assembling a panel of 4 volunteers and has 10-15 residents in attendance.

Pine Recovery – Historically, we have been taking meetings into Pine Recovery since 1987. Tommy S. reported that they take meetings to Pine Recovery on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month at 2 pm and generally have 15-20 residents in attendance.

Women's Recovery Homes – This is a new commitment for our Area. There was mention of some interaction with the Women's Recovery Homes in the past around 2011. Alice S. reported they are scheduled to take a meeting to Mothering Heights, the third Thursday of each month. They bring a panel of 4 to 5 women. They are being received with much enthusiasm, Daily Reflections were requested and given to the ladies at the January meeting. There residents showed an interest in prayer and meditation and Alice plans on having volunteers share about these subjects going forward. There is a new coordinator at New Visions, and conversation is in process to possibly begin an H&I meeting to that facility. Currently there are approximately 15 women who have been through orientation and shown interest in volunteering at the Women's Recovery Homes.

Mental Health – This is a new commitment which began in November, 2019. Boo reported that she attended the meeting on January 2, 2020 and began facilitating the meeting on February 6, 2020. This is a monthly meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month and volunteers are being rotated as generally 6 volunteers attend and there are a 3-15 residents. There is a possibility that the facility would like to increase meetings to twice a month, and Joyce will follow-up on this.

Corcoran – Historically, we have taken meetings into Corcoran Prison since 1988. There was a period of time this stopped and was restarted in 2009. Bill H. was not in attendance but reported via e-mail that they have recently increased their monthly commitments at SATF to 12 monthly, and continue to hold 4 commitments at Corcoran. SATF is transitioning our renewing volunteers from Gate Access to Brown Cards extending their access from 12 months to 5 years. They have 4 volunteers who have been approved to also go into Avenal Prison.

Regional Chair Report – Joe G. reported that there is little activity in Area 91 Madera/Mariposa with the exception of meetings being taken into Chowchilla State Prison. Area 92 – Fresno recently had Kat C. return as Area Chair, and they elected a new recording secretary. Currently they are taking meetings into the Fresno County Jail for Women and Men, West Care Recovery Home for Men and Women and Juvenile Hall.

*** Sylvia, a Self-Help Coordinator from Corcoran Prison was in attendance and relayed to us that she facilitates A.A. meetings inside the facility for the inmates. Sylvia shared the importance of H&I volunteers attending these meetings as our volunteers bring the experience of being alcoholic and can answer questions that the Self-Help Coordinators cannot. We greatly appreciate Sylvia being with us and being willing to share her experience. We appreciate the opportunity to have open communication between the committee and the facilities.

Treasurer Report – Tommy S. reported that we had a beginning balance of \$233.00, 7th tradition brought in \$30.00. Rent for \$11.00 will be deducted, leaving an ending balance of \$252.00.

Literature Report – Tommy S. reported that we are well stocked on literature and has been able to provide literature to volunteers upon request. Tommy informed us that the Literature Chair at NorCal is extremely helpful in getting literature to us.

CSR Liaison – Joyce R. reported that she attends the monthly Central Office Meeting as the H&I Liaison. Central Office is working on the upcoming Founders Day Picnic which is scheduled for June 6, 2020, looking for an alternative for the answering service for after-hours calls, are working on a golf tournament for the beginning of May, and will fill 2 Board positions at their next meeting on February 11, 2020.

GSR Liaison – Ralph D. attends the monthly GSR meeting as his Home Group's GSR and also acts as the H&I Liaison on the first Wednesday of each month. A Service Faire is scheduled for March 14th at the Porterville Recovery Club to collect group feedback for our Delegate on issues to be discussed at the General Service Conference. There was extensive conversation at the February 5, 2020 meeting regarding safety in meetings due to the GSR's being made aware that an A.A. member who possesses a C.C.W. brought a firearm to a meeting and showed some members the firearm. The discussion ended with leaving it to each group to decide if weapons are allowed at meetings but to educate members that anonymity does not protect criminal activity. It is important that members be aware of the address of the meeting they are attending in the event that law enforcement needs to be called.

Region 190 – Rafael F. Regional Chair of the Spanish Region 190 reported that they take weekly Spanish Speaking H&I meetings to Chowchilla Women's Prison and Chowchilla Men's Prison, West Care Recovery Home for men and women, Nuestra Casa Recovery Center and Fresno County Jail for men and women. They are working with our Area to reach out to Spanish Speaking groups in Tulare County in an effort to encourage Spanish speaking volunteers to bring H&I meetings to Tulare County Jail and any other facility where this would be of service.

Old Business: Tabled from the December 14, 2019 meeting: Request that the Parole and Community Team monthly meeting be considered an H&I Activity. Joyce researched this issue and found that as it entails passing out information regarding A.A. to recently paroled inmates, and is not bringing a meeting, this commitment falls under PI/CPC not H&I. Patrick was provided the name and phone number of our local PI/CPC person from Central Office. Patrick encouraged any A.A. members interested in participating in this monthly commitment to contact him after the meeting.

New Business:

Election of Recording Secretary: Adopted at the December 14, 2019 meeting, this position requires 6 months of sobriety and is a one-year commitment. The Term will begin at our April, 2019 meeting and continue until February, 2021 when a new secretary will be elected. Tracy W. stood for this position. Upon motion being duly made and seconded, Tracy W. was elected the new Recording Secretary.

Election of Treasurer: Adopted at the December 14, 2019 meeting, this position requires 2 years of sobriety and is a two-year commitment. The term will begin at our April, 2019 meeting and continue until February, 2020 when a new treasurer will be elected. Gary B. stood for this position. Upon motion being duly made and seconded, Gary B. was elected the new Treasurer.

General Committee Meeting: The agenda for the meeting which will be held February 9, 2020, 11:00 am to 3 pm at the Visalia Creative Center is included in the meeting packet. Please plan on attending. Thank you to all who have participated in getting everything ready for this meeting.

New Business From The Floor: In light of the recent incident where a member with a CCW Permit had a firearm in a meeting and showed it to other members, the question was raised as to our committee's policy on weapons being allowed at the committee meetings with discussion following. This matter was tabled to our next meeting with a suggestion this question be posed at the General Committee Meeting for guidance.

Adjourn: There being no further new business, the meeting was closed with the H&I Responsibility Statement at 10:15 am. Notes taken by Justin R., typed by Joyce R.