



Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee

Newsbrief

Concise quarterly update from the NorCal H&I Committee.

May 2024



Budget and Financial: Thank you to all who have contributed to the Pink Can. The Norcal Committee continues into the second quarter in sound financial position. In April, income was \$52,975.81 while our expenses were \$51,718.56 leaving a positive cash flow of \$1,257.25. We continue slightly above our recommended 6 months average cash on hand. However, we also ended April with some literature orders on back order and a couple of large literature orders being placed right after the month end. Groups, please pass the Pink Can, and have treasurers submit the funds received on a regular basis throughout the year rather than in one lump sum. When submitting by check, please put the area number on the check, and *make checks payable to NorCal H&I*. Our monthly financial reports and our IRS 990 reports are always posted on our website: <https://www.handinorcal.org/finances>.

Inside Visitation Sponsorship Service (IVSS): The IVSS is actively serving San Quentin, Salinas Valley, CTF Soledad, and is in the process of establishing the service at the CA Facility for Women in Chowchilla. As of the end of March, 2024, there were 111 confined alcoholics on the IVSS's sponsee rosters, with 25 inside members still awaiting sponsors. The electronic option service is being implemented, which will allow a volunteer to sponsor an inside member anonymously by text, phone and video visits *from anywhere in northern CA*. This will provide greater opportunity for service, increase the volunteer pool, and allow service to the more remote prisons. To learn more or sign up to be a sponsor, go to www.handinorcal.org/volunteer-prisons#ivss-section.

Major Facilities Updates: The Federal Correctional Institution -Dublin has closed and the women moved to other facilities. More prisons are now accepting volunteers and moving toward pre-pandemic activity levels. There is a widespread need for AA volunteers to take meetings into prisons. The State is attempting to streamline the volunteer application process by having applications approved for more than one facility. For information on volunteering for a particular prison, please read the H&I **Policy Manual** for general requirements and visit www.handinorcal.org/volunteer-prisons. [Use the NorCal map](#) to find the county and email the Area Chair who will assist you in obtaining an application, or use the roster of Major Facility Coordinators available in the H&I Newsletter. For information on volunteering at a Fire Camp, please contact the Major Institution Coordinator through www.handinorcal.org/contact-us.

Cashless Contributions: Since the last Norcal Committee meeting in January, the Finance Committee discussed various options for accepting cashless contributions to H&I and the accounting ramifications for each. At the April NorCal Meeting, the committee recommended *that the NorCal Committee not go forward at this time and address the issue again in one year*. The recommendation was approved.

Policy Manual Revisions: In April, the NorCal Committee approved proposed revisions to the **Policy Manual**, with some minor wording changes. (See H&I Newsletter). The changes mostly concern appointment of officers, the addition of a Registrar position, clarification in the definition of "overfamiliarity" and a cautionary statement in the NorCal Committee Position Descriptions section concerning waiving position requirements. These **Policy Manual** revisions will be submitted again at the July meeting, where they will be subject to vote requiring a two-thirds majority to pass.

Committee Business Meeting Procedures Proposal: The NorCal Committee approved proposed Business Meeting Procedures with some minor edits. These procedures are adapted from the **AA Service Manual**, **Robert's Rules of Order**, and the H&I **Policy Manual**. The purpose of having these procedures, which resemble those of the General Service Conference, is to make it easier to conduct business and to carry out the will of the NorCal Committee by reaching an informed group conscience. The procedures will be added to Section 2 of the Policy Manual if ratified in July along the other policy revisions.

Help Wanted: The Committee needs an Audio/Visual Chair, Spanish Communications Chair, Publisher and Website Chair. Job descriptions are available in the **Policy Manual**. If interested, contact Julio B. at chairnorcalhandi@gmail.com.

The next NorCal Committee meeting will be held on July 28, 2024, 11:00a.m. Meetings are hybrid. Online access: Meeting ID: 828 7733 8114 Passcode: service. In-person location: North Solano Intergroup Office, 413 William Street, Vacaville