



**Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee**

# Newsbrief

*concise quarterly update on the NorCal H&I Committee.*

**July 2024**



**Budget and Financial:** The NorCal Committee ended June with a negative \$3,786.58 but year-to-date was at a positive \$7,841.77. This is a sound financial position. Year-to-date the Committee is 31% above our budgeted income and only 14% above budgeted literature expense and 11% above in budgeted total expense. Groups are encouraged to pass the pink can and have treasurers send in contributions regularly. When submitting pink can contributions by check, please put the area number on the check, and *make checks payable to NorCal H&I*. Questions, concerns and expense reports should be sent to [treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com](mailto:treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com).

**Newly Elected:** The Norcal Committee congratulates Joe N., as the newly elected NorCal Co-Chair, and Bruce Abbott, who was elected as incoming Publisher, and the first NorCal Registrar, the **Policy Manual** revisions having been ratified. Also congratulations to Kelly B., new Finance Committee member #2, and James C., new SoCal Liaison.

**Inside Visitation Sponsorship Service (IVSS):** IVSS currently serves San Quentin, Salinas Valley (SVSP), the Correctional Training Facility (CTF) in Soledad, and the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF Chowchilla). Efforts are underway to bring the IVSS to Folsom, Corcoran, the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Corcoran (SATF) and Avenal. A new IVSS position of Inside IVSS Liaison is being tested at CTF, which will help in communicating with inside members. The IVSS thanks the many people and Central Offices who are actively encouraging volunteers and helping establish the service to inside members. Please send inquiries about IVSS to [handi.ivss@gmail.com](mailto:handi.ivss@gmail.com)

**Policy Manual Revision Recommendations:** The Committee reviewed the *Policy Manual* revisions approved at the April NorCal meeting and recommended to the July meeting for ratification. After review and discussion, the *Policy Manual* revisions, including the proposed Business Meeting Procedures and the addition of the Registrar position were approved with substantial unanimity.

**Major Facilities Updates:** The prisons in California are accepting volunteers and clearance processes vary from prison to prison, although the State of California is attempting to provide some standardization. Some facility coordinators report communication issues with administration, staff turnover, and slow clearance processes, but volunteers are able to have AA meetings with our inside members. The Committee continues to ensure a supply of AAWS and Grapevine literature. Spanish-speaking AA meetings are increasing, and more Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed. 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](http://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](http://www.handinorcal.org/contact-us).

**H&I Conference Advisory Committee Members Needed:** The H&I Conference Committee is a separate committee responsible for planning, organizing and implementing the annual H&I Conference. The H&I Conference has continued for 52 years, working with the H&I General Committee, getting people involved in H&I, and educating all AA members about what H&I does and does not do. The H&I Conference Committee is in need of at least two volunteers willing to serve on the Conference Advisory Committee. If interested, please contact [info.norcalhandi@gmail.com](mailto:info.norcalhandi@gmail.com).

**Discussion Topic: The "Aging of AA":** The Committee discussed the issue of attracting younger people into H&I service and offered a list of valuable suggestions for addressing this issue. For a list to date of the suggestions, please contact [info.norcalhandi@gmail.com](mailto:info.norcalhandi@gmail.com).

**Help Wanted:** The Committee is seeking qualified volunteers to be vetted and trained by the incumbents before turning the positions over next year. These positions are Literature Chair and Web Chair. To be filled immediately are Spanish Communications Chair and Audio/Media Chair. The qualifications for these positions are listed in the Policy Manual. If interested, contact the General Chair at [chairnorcalhandi@gmail.com](mailto:chairnorcalhandi@gmail.com).

The next NorCal Committee business meeting will be held October 27, 11:00a.m. In-person location to be announced;  
Zoom Meeting ID: 828 7733 8114 Password: service