

September, 2026 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. Locally, we continue to carry the message of AA to 8 treatment facilities, Tulare County Jail, Corcoran, SATF and Avenal Prisons providing AA literature upon request.

We are always looking for AA members who are interested in going into facilities and bringing an AA meeting. There is a large need for volunteers who would like to go into Correctional facilities along with Women who have Thursday's open and are willing to participate with us at two women's facilities. Please share this information with your groups and send any interested AA members to our next orientation which will be held September 12, 2026; 9:00 am at 526 N. Bridge Street, Visalia. This is followed at 10:00 am by our Business Meeting. The Business Meeting is a great opportunity to hear an overview of all the facilities we serve and service opportunities. We will be planning our volunteer appreciation event and gearing up for the Area Chair rotation in November.

On the back of the report, I have included the NorCal Quarterly News Brief. This provides an overview of everything going on at the NorCal Committee level to share with your group. This report and the Financial Report are available at www.aa-tulareco.org on the H&I page and at www.handinorcal.org. Please continue to pass the pink can at your meetings as we continue in **Neutral** Financial position. If your group does not have a pink can, please send an email to our local committee at handiarea93@gmail.com or pick one up at the Central Office. Please pass the pink can after the 7th Tradition basket to not detract from the 7th Tradition.

In Service,

Joyce R., Area 93 Chair

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

NEWSBRIEF • AUGUST 2026

A high-level look at what was discussed, accomplished, and needs support across NorCal H&I

For Areas, Intergroups, Groups, and other AA service entities — a quick way to share what is happening throughout Northern California H&I.

FINANCIAL & PINK CAN

The Committee ended July \$3,463.72 above its recommended prudent reserve/cash-on-hand level, placing the Committee in a Neutral financial position. July was the first month since March that the Committee exceeded its recommendation.

The Finance Committee is preparing the 2027 budget. Areas are encouraged to continue passing the Pink Can, sending contributions regularly, and keeping extra cans available.

Literature expenses remain an area of focus. The target is approximately \$25 per meeting served. Area Chairs should review monthly literature recaps, order only what is needed, avoid stockpiling, and look for opportunities to reuse literature when appropriate.

- Please encourage groups to keep a few Pink Cans available and send contributions on a regular basis.
- Sharing financial reports with Area volunteers helps keep the Fellowship informed about NorCal's financial position.

LITERATURE, GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA

NorCal currently provides 2,584 Grapevine and 992 La Viña subscriptions at an estimated cost of about \$5,350 per month. Please keep recipient names, addresses, positions, and quantities current to prevent delivery delays or stockpiling.

Area Chairs and Major Institution Coordinators should communicate changes to local Literature and Grapevine contacts promptly. The Committee is working to make sure subscriptions reach the correct people and facilities.

- Review your Area's literature cost per meeting using the monthly literature recap.
- Order enough for current needs rather than building excess inventory.

SPANISH REGION CONNECTIONS

Joe and Joyce attended a Spanish Regional meeting and are continuing efforts to strengthen communication between English-speaking Areas, Spanish Regions, and Major Institutions. Form 2s and literature connections have been updated for Regions 190 and 170, with Region 140 in process.

Region 180 has volunteers interested in returning to county-jail service, creating an opportunity for Areas and coordinators to help reconnect those volunteers with facilities.

The Committee continues to recognize the importance of making sure Spanish-speaking AA members have access to meetings, literature, La Viña, and service opportunities.

WHAT AREAS ARE REPORTING

Across the Areas, H&I continues to grow through new facilities, workshops, and volunteer recruitment. Examples include new recovery/treatment facilities in Humboldt, Shasta, Sonoma, Yolo/Sacramento, and El Dorado, while several Areas continue working through clearance delays and volunteer shortages.

- Area 16 reported about 100 attendees at its July H&I workshop.
- Areas continue using orientations, appreciation events, and service panels to build participation.
- Several Areas report successful meetings while continuing to recruit volunteers and work through facility clearance issues.

MAJOR INSTITUTIONS

Coordinator and volunteer needs remain significant. Help is needed at Pelican Bay, Salinas Valley, Jamestown, New Folsom, Solano, and Avenal. At Avenal, Monte S. is stepping down and Bill H. is temporarily helping.

Several institutions are also experiencing staffing, clearance, or scheduling challenges. CCWF experienced a temporary service interruption because of facility staffing shortages, while other facilities continue working to clear additional volunteers.

- Areas are encouraged to make announcements for institution coordinator and volunteer needs.
- Successful conferences and speaker events are providing models that may be adapted by other institutions.

IVSS — INSIDE VISITATION SPONSORSHIP SERVICE

IVSS is currently serving eight Northern California prisons. As of the end of June, 266 inside members had applied and 226 had sponsors — nearly 60% more than this time last year.

Additional coordinators and volunteers are needed, particularly for Pleasant Valley. IVSS is also expanding Spanish-language sponsorship and exploring outreach to juvenile facilities. At least 40 inside members still need sponsors.

- Share information about IVSS with members who may be interested in one-on-one sponsorship service.
- Help identify volunteers and coordinators, especially where there are members waiting for sponsors.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION TOPICS

Facility Requests: The Committee shared how Areas evaluate requests for new H&I meetings and literature, including considerations such as confinement, transportation, finances, rural location, safety, facility rules, and volunteer availability. No single approach was adopted; Areas shared practices and experience.

Regional Chair Role: Discussion focused on the Regional Chair as a liaison supporting Area Chairs, strengthening communication, mentoring newer leaders, recruiting regional volunteers, and developing future trusted servants.

These discussions are intended to give Areas ideas and examples they can take back to their own committees — not to establish policy.

COMMUNICATION & WEBSITE

The Committee is working toward more timely communication. Unapproved draft minutes will be distributed sooner, while quarterly reports will become more current in future newsletters. The committee roster is moving to a confidential, view-only document.

The Website Ad Hoc Committee continues work on the approved WordPress migration, with a focus on improving navigation, organization, accessibility, and long-term maintenance.

HOW CAN YOUR AREA HELP?

Pass the Pink Can • Recruit and clear volunteers • Help fill coordinator openings • Support IVSS sponsorship • Keep literature and subscription information current • Share H&I information with your Groups and Intergroups

NEXT NORCAL H&I COMMITTEE MEETING • OCTOBER 25, 2026 • 11:00 AM • ZOOM 828 7733 8114 • PASSCODE: service

Financial information: handinorcal.org/finances | Volunteer information: handinorcal.org/volunteer-prisons