

Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee December 2023 Public Information News Brief

Greetings! My name is Melody T. and I'm the Public Information Chair of the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee. This is the first of a series of brief, quarterly updates from our committee. The Hospital & Institution Committee of Northern California carries the message of AA into prisons, jails, hospitals, rehabs and other facilities serving alcoholics, and provides literature and sponsorship services.

If you have **any** questions about what our committee is up to, please contact me at: 209-482-4470, or Tolmie.melandjoe@gmail.com and I'll make sure your questions get to the right person. Or submit your questions on our website: <https://www.handinorcal.org/contact-us>. If your Group, District or Intergroup would like to have an H&I display at your local events, please let me know so I can help facilitate that.

Meetings are Back!

Requests to start new meetings and to resume meetings that were postponed during the pandemic are streaming in from all over NorCal. Local area committees are working hard to get these meetings started. In most areas, there is a great need for more volunteers to bring meetings into the facilities we serve.

Contact the area chair in your location for more information on how to get involved: <https://www.handinorcal.org/map>

Major Institutions (State and Federal Prisons):

Meeting volunteers and Facility Coordinators are needed in several institutions. As expected, we lost many volunteers during the shutdown and we currently have seven Major Institutions without a Coordinator. On the positive side, we recently recruited Institution Coordinators for San Quentin and Salinas Valley Prison.

Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service:

Currently serving 127 confined alcoholics in San Quentin, Salinas Valley and CTF Soledad. At San Quentin, we're making inroads to serve the Hispanic population which is a critical demographic. We anticipate starting at Folsom early in 2024 and we are seeking a volunteer to get this program started at the Chowchilla Women's Facility. The IVSS for Rehabs Pilot Program is now in 3 facilities in Alameda Area 53 and going well. We continue to get inquiries from across the country about the IVSS program since it was included in the GSO Corrections Workbook and our article in the July Grapevine.

Budget and Financial Situation

NorCal H&I ended the third quarter of 2023 in "POOR" financial condition. At the end of October, we were nearly \$5,000.00 below the 6 months' recommended cash reserves. While this may seem minimal, it is important to be reminded that this is after we reduced our base monthly multiplier to \$46,860.95 as approved with our budget at our October 22, 2023 Committee Meeting. The more concerning point is at the end of October, we see that our year-to-date literature expenses have increased 49.2%, while our income increased 13.4%. This is not a sustainable trend. It is our sincere hope that by sharing this information with our fellowship, we will see an increase in Pink Can contributions to bring this closer in alignment. This will ensure that our lifesaving AA literature continues to be available to our inside members.

We are committed to financial transparency. Our monthly financial reports and our IRS 990 reports are posted on our website: <https://www.handinorcal.org/finances>

Help Wanted- General Committee

The committee is seeking qualified H&I volunteers to serve as: Spanish Language Communications Coordinator, Audio Media Chair, Website Chair, Publisher, and CNCA06 Liaison. For more information on these positions, contact: juliobarba@sbcglobal.net