

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL & INSTITUTION COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 192490
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94119-2490**



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COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2025-26

October 26, 2025

January 25, 2026

April 26, 2026

July 26, 2026

Committee Meeting will be held at 11:00am on Zoom.
In Person location will be communicated prior to each Hybrid meeting.
Contact northcalhandipublisher@gmail.com for questions.



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Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee



P.O. Box 192490 * San Francisco, CA 94119-2490

Newsletter #4

PLEASE KEEP THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER CONFIDENTIAL

Oct. 2025

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

October 26, 2025
11:00 AM Pacific Time

Join Meeting by ZOOM:
Meeting ID: 828 7733 8114
Passcode: service

Dial by your location
Phone dial in US: +1 669 444 9171
Meeting ID: 828 7733 8114

Contact northcalhandipublisher@gmail.com for questions.

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From the NorCal Chair

Greetings Fellow Committee Members,

I am truly honored to have been elected to serve as your NorCal Committee Chair. I look forward to getting to know many of you better and working together to continue the amazing work this committee has accomplished.

When I first joined this committee as a volunteer, I had no intention of stepping into this role—so I am both humbled and grateful for the trust you've placed in me. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Julio for his dedication and leadership as our recent past chair. His hard work and thoughtful guidance have laid a solid foundation for a smooth transition, and I deeply appreciate the helpful “pass-it-on” documents and advice he’s already shared. I look forward to continuing to lean on his and other past chairs' experience as I learn and grow in this position.

I feel incredibly fortunate to be stepping into this role with such a strong, experienced committee. The dedication and passion I've witnessed in even my short time here is truly inspiring, and I have every confidence that together, we will continue moving in the right direction.

Over the past few weeks, I've had the pleasure of reaching out to many of you to discuss your current positions and roles. I'm grateful to those of you who have agreed to continue your service—I deeply value your ongoing commitment. There are still a few positions to be filled, one of which is the Literature Chair. As many of you know, our current chair has served faithfully in this role for quite some time and is now looking forward to exploring other opportunities for service. We are incredibly thankful for her continued support during this transition as we work to find someone new to step into this important role.

I encourage you all to review the responsibilities of the Literature Chair in our policy manual and share any recommendations you may have. If someone comes to mind, please don't hesitate to send them my way—I'd love the opportunity to connect and see if they'd be a good fit.

While I still have much to learn and many of you I've yet to speak with one-on-one, my goal is to connect with each of you. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any insights, concerns, or suggestions. Your feedback is important to me, and I welcome your thoughts as I begin this journey.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to working with each of you to the best of my ability.

In gratitude,

Joe N.
NorCal Committee Chair



Letter of Gratitude for H&I

I remember having a sinking feeling in my stomach in early sobriety when “service” was mentioned. It was uncomfortable to hear that service is necessary to stay sober because I wasn’t doing anything. I knew there were many ways to do service but most of them boiled down to some sort of work and I wasn’t excited about that prospect. I got some temporary relief when I heard that we’re doing service simply by attending meetings and sharing our experience, strength and hope. I felt better for a while knowing that I was “doing service” without lifting a finger to anything more than what I was already doing. My relief didn’t last long.

As I became aware of what others were doing in the name of service, my passive definition didn’t measure up. It’s true; participating in meetings is service, but most of the people with sobriety that I respect were more actively engaged in service. So, I followed their lead and did meeting setup, cleanup, coffee maker, meeting secretary. I attend business meetings and learned how things worked to support the meetings that I attended.

Participating in service blew the roof off the isolation box I was psychologically locked in. I was no longer a lone alcoholic struggling to stay sober in a vacuum. Service made me a responsible member of our recovery community. Pitching in to help ensure that the hand of AA is there for the next suffering alcoholic gave me a greater purpose beyond simply avoiding that first drink.

I heard repeated announcements about the need for volunteers to bring AA meetings into various unpleasant facilities, like prisons, jails, psychiatric institutions, rehabs and shelters. Yuk! But I also heard audacious claims that people involved in H&I service tended to stay sober. Given my exhausting history of relapse up to that point, I needed all the insurance I could find. Plus, I liked the people involved in H&I service. I liked their vibe—their energy and sobriety. They had a mission, got stuff done and appeared to be having a good time doing it.

After attending my area H&I orientation twice I began volunteering in local rehabs, community facilities and hospital. Bringing a meeting into facilities was unlike anything I experienced before. Sometimes, everything lined up like we were magically in the right place at the right time to reach a struggling alcoholic who needed to hear what we had to say. Sometimes it felt like we were talking to ourselves. The important thing was that we showed up and reached out. It’s still intensely meaningful and gratifying service.

Over the years, my length of sobriety and past service positions qualified me for service opportunities at increasing levels of responsibility. Working behind the scenes is not gratifying in the same way as working directly with another alcoholic but it is rewarding.

It’s great to be part of a committee that delivers so much good to so many suffering alcoholics. But, there is also serious business that has to be dealt with. Problems, disagreements, conflicts, unexpected turns of event, mistakes, errors, complications and changes that need to be addressed. Not as much fun as speaking to newcomers but it has given the chance to be more useful, to be a better listener, and to develop behaviors and skills that helped me grow in emotional sobriety.

I’m most grateful to H&I service for giving me a strong sense of responsibility that has kept me motivated and engaged throughout my sobriety to this day. Thank you, NorCal H&I, for allowing me to be of service and for giving me a life full of surprises and joy beyond anything I could have imagined.

Julio B.



From the Archives.....

The following article by Jim Estelle chronicles the growth of Alcoholics Anonymous from the first meetings at San Quentin to the Federal and State prisons around the country. Jim's father worked for the Department of Corrections at San Quentin and Jim graduated from 8th grade at the schoolhouse at San Quentin. Jim's father was then transferred to Folsom Prison where Jim's career in Corrections began in 1952. He later served at Vacaville and Susanville. He spent the last 12 years prior to retirement as Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. From 1977-86, Jim served as a Class A non-alcoholic trustee of the General Service Board; and from 1993-97 as Chairman of the General Service Board. Jim was a great friend of AA and of H&I. He has written and spoken extensively about the history and positive impact of AA on correctional institutions. Jim passed away on February 13, 2025.

April 1982

A.A. IN INSTITUTIONS W. J. Estelle Jr.

THE EARLY YEARS The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, founded in 1935, was into its seventh year with a growing membership of more than 8,000 when a progressive warden at San Quenton asked for nearby members of A.A. to carry the message to alcoholics behind the walls. The year was 1942, and the warden who defied many skeptics, was the now-legendary Clinton Duffy. He said, "If the program will help just one man, I want to start it."

The first meeting had 20 inmates and several free-world guests in attendance. Warden Duffy recognized the importance of the free-world visitation to the growth of that new A.A. group of imprisoned alcoholics. Others, both inmates and Duffy's peers alike, remained skeptical until the return rate for alcoholic parolees dropped from 80% to 20% and stayed there. What Warden Duffy called "a tool to help us rebuild lives" began to give hope to alcoholics behind bars.

INTO MATURITY By 1944, the first A.A. group in a Federal penitentiary was formed, in Atlanta. By March 1958, there were active groups in 18 Federal institutions. In a survey conducted by the Federal prison director, James V. Bennet, favorable comments from all wardens praised the accomplishments of the program. Mr. Bennett recognized the value of A.A. in prisons, not only to arrest alcoholism, but also to deal with many living problems that facilitate a criminal life-style.

By 1960, there were 356 prison groups with a total membership of 15,547 members. A.A. in prison had gone international, with seven groups in Finland and two in Holland. Correctional officials nationwide continued to encourage those whose crimes were alcohol-related or admitted alcoholics to join A.A. in prison. Men like Lee Henslee of Arkansas, Gus Harrison of Michigan, and Alfred Dowd of Indiana lauded Alcoholics Anonymous as a "20th century miracle" that often made the difference in the transition to freedom. More importantly, immediate membership upon release from prison contributed to a more meaningful life with one's family. Success in the community by men who had found A.A. while in prison continued to give renewed hope to those who we.re still inside.

THE TEXAS EXPERIENCE A.A. in the Texas Prison System had its beginning in 1948, when the first meeting was held at the "Walls" (on the yard



near where the present-day chapel stands) with five inmates attending.

Records indicate that the first alcoholic inmate in the Texas Prison System was taken to a state A.A. convention in Tyler in 1951. Free-world interest increased soon after, and, in 1953, Howard Sublett, then with the Classification Committee, became the first departmental sponsor for A.A. From the records Mr. Sublett kept, we know that only 5% of inmates who had six months or more of A.A. while in prison later returned.

By the end of 1960, there were 15 A.A. groups in existence. Today, there are 20 groups in the Texas Department of Corrections, each with weekly meetings still supported by free-world visitors. Approximately four times a year, selected inmates representing all the "A.A.'s in white" are allowed to attend free-world A.A. conventions. The Wynot publication is exchanged with other prison groups around the nation. Free-world visitation continues to be vital to the success of every alcoholic 'in white who will not return to T.D.C.

TODAY A 1974 correctional facility survey by the General Service Office revealed the following:

1. The average number of groups per institution is 1.25.
2. Attendance at A.A. meetings is voluntary in 90% of the prisons.
3. 50% of all inmates were sentenced for crimes in which alcohol abuse was a significant factor.
4. 96% of the respondents believed an inmate's chance of making it on the outside was improved by participating in the A.A. program. It is also believed that only 10% of the inmates estimated to be in prison for alcohol-related crimes throughout America attend A.A. meetings.

Today, A.A. estimates that groups in prisons and jails number in excess of 1,100, with a membership in excess of 43,000.

THE ENDURING LEGACY In an article written for a special issue of the Grapevine commemorating the 25th anniversary of A.A., Warden Duffy, who by then was a member of the California Parole Board, said the following of Alcoholics Anonymous in prisons:

The A.A. program is presented in a humble and human manner, without high-pressure frills. This is the approach necessary to reach the man who has developed a highly suspicious nature. It helps him to face the truth and reality, without self-pity or dodging of responsibility. It rids him of fears, hates, jealousies, and suspicions that have been his for so long. He learns to eliminate his drinking--to fight the urge, the desire--to get help and fellowship from his A.A. friends.

In prison, not all alcoholics will admit they are powerless over alcohol. But as the years roll on and they see the effect of A.A. on others, the die-hards gradually come around. They see their lives have become unmanageable. They are getting a bit closer to "wanting to want to."

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OPEN POSITIONS - NORCAL H&I

The following positions for our Northern California committee are currently open. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in stepping up and filling these openings, you'll be making our committee both more effective and more representative. See our Policy Manual for the complete position descriptions, and *if you're interested or have any questions, please contact our General Chair.*

Committee Chairs/Officers

Execute the operations of the Committee.

- ◇ Co-Chair
- ◇ Archives Chair
- ◇ Publisher
- ◇ Literature Chair
- ◇ Finance Committee Members #2 and #3
- ◇ H&I Conference Chair

Regional Chairs

Acts in support capacity to Area Chairs within the region...

- Region 01 - Far North Coastal – OPEN
- Region 10 - Far North Interior – OPEN
- Region 30 – Northern Interior – OPEN
- Region 70 – Southern Coastal – OPEN
- Region 50 - East Bay - OPEN
- Region 90- Far East Interior - OPEN

Area Chairs

Have overall responsibility for the H&I operations in the areas in which they serve...

- Area 12 Lassen – OPEN
- Area 44 Amador - OPEN
- Area 95 Kings - OPEN

Major Institutions Coordinators

Have overall responsibility for all H&I meetings in the Major Facility which they serve...

- FCI Herlong (HER) – OPEN
- FCI Mendota (MEN) – OPEN
- SCC Jamestown – OPEN
- Salinas Valley - OPEN
- USP Atwater (ATW)-OPEN

IVSS Coordinators

If you'd like to support opening this service in an Institution near you, please contact the IVSS Chair

**The Web Site for the
Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee is:**

www.handinorcal.org

Please visit our site and send us your suggestions or questions.

To change your newsletter status or info, chose one of the following:

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Come to any General Committee Meeting to give us your new info.



NORCAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

OCTOBER 26, 2025

OPEN MEETING with the Serenity Prayer

READINGS:

- Purpose of the Hospital & Institution Committee
- Twelve Traditions of AA

INTRODUCTIONS / WELCOME

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

OFFICER REPORTS:

1. General Chair: Joe N.	10. Pink Can Coordinator: Peter M.
2. General Co-Chair: Vacant	11. Policy Chair: Penny C.
3. Treasurer: Joyce R. ● APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	12. Audio Media Chair: Jeremiah P.
4. Secretary: Lynn D.	13. Archives Chair: Julio B.
5. Major Institutions Chair: Jeff Little	14. Public Information Chair: Melody T.
6. IVSS Chair: Karen C.	15. Grapevine Chair: Bob F.
7. Finance Committee Chair: Kelly B.	16. Publisher: Julio B.
8. NCCAA Conf. Coordinator: Karen B.	17. Spanish Comm. Chair: Martin L.
9. Literature Chair: Kelly B.	18. Website Chair: Thom H.

LIAISON & SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. VATF: Jeff L.	4. NCCAA (as req. by NCCAA Chair): Karen B.
2. H&I Liaison to CNCA: James C.	5. SoCal H&I Liaison: James C.
3. H&I Liaison to CNIA: Vikki R.	6. Guest Reports:

BREAK

COMMITTEE BUSINESS SCHEDULE

- Unfinished Business
 - Open Finance Committee Members:
 - Finance Committee Member #2 (3rd Legacy Procedure)
 - Finance Committee Member #3 (3rd Legacy Procedure)
 - Chair Appointment for Committee Concurrence:
 - Publisher: Jude H.
- New Business
 - 2026 Budget
 - Annual Form II Submission
 - Motion to recall the current Finance Committee Member #2, who is also the incoming Finance Chair.

DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

OPEN FORUM – HOW CAN WE HELP YOU? Questions, suggestions, or comments from the floor

ANNIVERSARIES

CLOSE MEETING with Declaration of Responsibility

Please send a brief written copy of your report to our Recording Secretary



Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee Regions and Areas



Region 01 - Far North Coastal
Areas: 2, 3, 4

Region 10 - Far North Interior
Areas: 11, 12

Region 15 - Lower Far North Interior
Areas: 16, 17, 18

Region 20 - Northern Coastal
Areas: 21, 22, 23

Region 30 - Northern Interior
Areas: 31, 32, 34, 36

Region 40 - Central Interior
Areas: 42, 43, 44, 45

Region 50 - East Bay
Areas: 51, 52, 53, 54

Region 60 - West Bay
Areas: 61, 62, 65

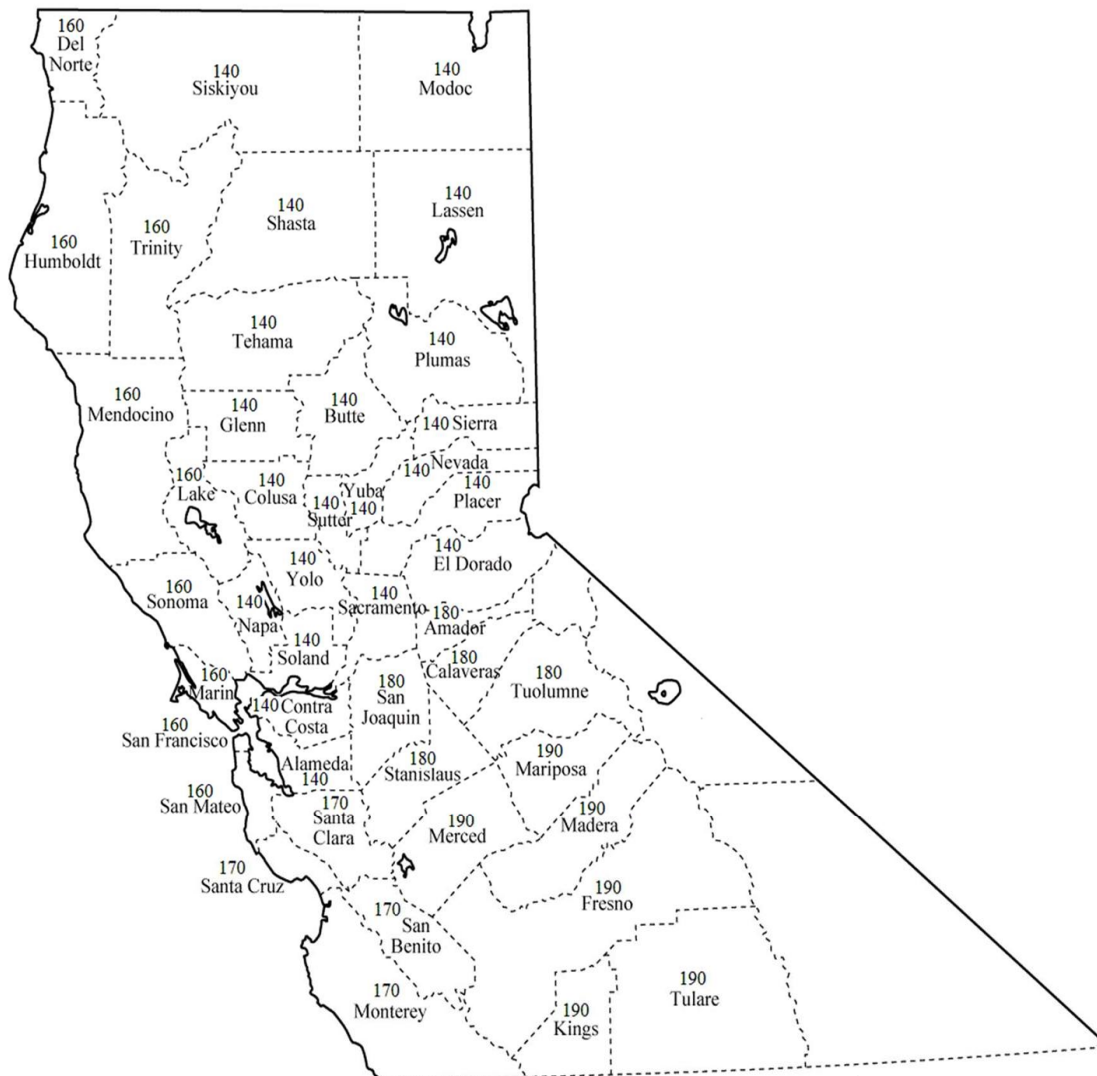
Region 70 - Southern Coastal
Areas: 71, 72, 73, 74

Region 80 - Southern Interior
Areas: 81, 82, 83, 84, 86

Region 90 - Far Southern Interior
Areas: 91, 92, 93, 95



Comité de Hospitales e Instituciones del Norte de California



Región		Reunión de negocios
140	Spanish North Interior (Sacramento)	4th Thursday of the month 7:00 to 9:00pm 5625 24 th St., Sacramento, CA 95822
160	Spanish North Coastal (San Francisco)	2nd Friday of Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Nov at 7:00pm 3401 Cesar Chavez St. Suite C, San Francisco, CA 94110
160	Area 161 Sonoma	Last Friday of the month, 7:00 pm 5959 Commerce Blvd, Unit 18, Rohnert Park, CA 94928
170	Spanish South Coastal (Salinas)	3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm 216 Gavilan St. Suite 215, Salinas CA 93901
180	Spanish Central Interior (Modesto)	1st Tuesday of the month 7:00 to 8:30pm 100 Carver Rd. Suite 7, Modesto, CA 95350-4787
190	Spanish South Interior (Fresno)	1st Monday of the month 7:00 to 8:30pm 520 N Fulton St, Fresno, CA 93728



Norcal H&I COMMITTEE MINUTES JULY 27, 2025

Opening: Julio B. opened the meeting at 11:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Purpose Statement: Joe N. read the H&I Purpose Statement and Karen C. read the short form of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

<p><u>Zoom:</u> Bruce A. Cindy A. Jennifer B. Kelly B. James C. Penny C. Karen C. Annetta D. Chris D. Lynn D. Mark F. Colleen G., BTG Alley G. Victoria H. Bill H.</p> <p><i>Interpreter: Manuel G.</i></p>	<p>Thom H. Jude H. Nikki J., SoCal H&I Jim L. Martin L. Omar L. Leigh Ann M. Peter M. Joyce R. Dave R. Melody T.</p> <p>Rosa, Region 20 Brad, Tuolomne</p>	<p><u>In Person</u> Julio B., Chair Jackie B. Jeff L. Joe N. Jeremiah P.</p>
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Attendance at Committee Meetings:

2024	2025
01/28: 38 (8 in person)	01/26: 38 (6 in person)
04/28: 34 (6 in person)	04/27: 39 (4 in person)
07/28: 39 (10 in person)	07/27: 28 (5 in person)
10/27: 41 (3 in person)	

Julio: Moment of silence for **Jim Estelle**, who passed away on February 13, 2025. His father worked for the Department of Corrections at San Quentin and Jim graduated from 8th grade at the schoolhouse at San Quentin. Jim’s father was then transferred to Folsom Prison, and Jim’s career in Corrections also began at Folsom Prison in 1952. He later served at Vacaville and Susanville. He spent the last 12 years prior to retirement as Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. From 1977-86, Jim served as a Class A non-alcoholic trustee of the General Service Board; and from 1993-97 as Chairman of the General Service Board. Jim was a great friend of AA and of H&I. He has written and spoken extensively about the history and positive impact of AA on correctional institutions. There is more about him in the Archives.

AGENDA (published in July 2025 newsletter): A preliminary agenda for today’s meeting was published in July 2025 newsletter. Committee members are asked to submit agenda topics in writing prior to the meeting so



we can add them to the published new business agenda. Committee members may also bring up new topics in the open forum or discussion portion of the meeting, but this could delay consideration and action. In Area and Regional reports, we received a few discussion topic requests, so will bring those forward in the open forum/discussion portion of today's meeting. No items added, no changes by Committee members to agenda.

- **Review and approve agenda** published in July 2025 newsletter (as revised):
 - Motion to approve: **Joe N.**
 - Approved= 100%
- **Review and approve April 2025 minutes** published in July 2025 newsletter:
 - Motion to approve: **Karen C.**
 - Approved = 100%

Officer Reports

General Chair, Julio B.

Welcome to the July 27, 2025 meeting of the NorCal H&I hybrid meeting, broadcasting from San Jose. We have a full agenda. Jackie B. is here to give us an update on Deaf AA (see guest report below).

Serving as Chair of this Committee for the past two years has been an incredible experience, the highlight of my entire service career. As I said in the newsletter, everything that went well during my term was largely due to the hard work and diligence of the NorCal Committee leadership that I was privileged to serve with. I am sincerely grateful to all of you for your support and kindness to me over the past two years. NorCal Committee members who work every day to carry the AA message of hope are the true heroes. It's been an honor and privilege to support you and the life-saving service you provide. A special note of gratitude to our past Chairs, **Jeff Little** and **Karen Czjuko**, for their support. They were always there when I needed them – and that means a lot. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

General Co-Chair, Joe N. All is well today.

Treasurer, Joyce R.

We ended June Negative \$11,055.21 and YTD negative \$10,333.62. This leaves us in **Neutral** Financial position as we are \$36,853.19 below our recommended 6 months cash on hand which remains less than one-month prior year average expense.

In June we returned to a more normal literature expenditure which accounts for the loss this month versus the positive we ended with last month. When we look at our figures of last year versus this year, we are currently - 1.4% in contributions but +2.4% in literature expense and +4.3% in total expense over last year. We had hoped this would resolve itself as we do see fluctuations month to month but at the 1/2 year mark we continue to see this negative cash flow. At our upcoming budget planning meeting, this will be discussed by the finance committee and utilized to formulate our 2026 proposed budget.

It is important that Area Chair's confirm that your literature chairs are ordering literature for your Area only. Major Institution Coordinators should be ordering their literature. This allows us to get a clear picture of the cost per meeting each Area is using.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com.



April, May, June 2025 Finance Statement(s) Approval (published in July 2025 newsletter)

- Approved = 100% (2 abstain)

Recording Secretary, Lynn D.

Thank you for getting your reports to me on time.

Major Institutions Chair, Jeff L.

Please see **attached** report summary.

First I want to thank all major institution coordinators for their perseverance and patience. I've been trying to get a speaker jam going, imitating what we did in Soledad in April, where we had 261 guys from the inside and 40 from the outside for a 3-day conference. We followed that up at Avenal over several weekends on different yards, and that was a major success as well. I've been reaching out to other major institutions to set up other conferences. This is from the CDCR press office:

"Cali Model: As part of the comprehensive response to recent surge in violence, CDCR implemented modifications to movement in areas within California prisons (all California institutions are listed except for San Quentin, CTF Soledad and Health Center in Stockton). Between May 29, 2025 and June 12, 2025, assaults on staff with weapons were 7; without weapons were 35; battery on staff 35 with weapons and 31 without weapons; on inmates with weapons was 25 and without weapons was 109. There were three riots."

Since this report, I am aware of three more homicides at three different institutions, and stabbing of a San Quentin correctional officer just last week. It's been difficult to communicate with the staff, as they are too busy to talk to us about conferences when there are riots going on. Some of the worst issues are at Pelican Bay, Salinas Valley, Sacramento Prison and Curran Valley in Southern CA.

I did get a new coordinator for Sacramento, but he's been unable to communicate (same as the previous coordinator who stepped down due to no response).

On a good note, we finally got a new coordinator for FCI Mendota **Frank D.**, the federal prison. Just spoke to him yesterday and we'll get together next week. Jeff will ask Frank to communicate with Bruce Abbot his contact info.

IVSS Chair, Karen C.

When I opened the July newsletter and read the letter from the General Chair as well as the Letter of Gratitude from Bill Hatzman, I got an overwhelming feeling of gratitude for being part of this wonderful committee. Reading both letters and participating with committee members in our common effort is what keeps me motivated daily.

The **Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service** is the H&I program to provide outside one-on-one sponsorship to confined alcoholics, primarily those in state prisons. We are currently serving 8 prisons in Northern California, and as of June 30th we have 177 inside members who have applied for sponsors; 143 of them have sponsors. So, our members being served has increased by 8% since my last report in April. Obviously (and this is the ongoing theme) there are more people who want sponsors than we have volunteers to sponsor them. Our job as a committee is to help get sponsors into this service.

San Quentin remains our dominant facility with 90 assigned sponsees and **Maxie V.**, our longtime most senior coordinator. His goal is 100 by the end of the year. At CTF Soledad, we have 18 assigned members and many of you know I recently sent out a mass email requesting a volunteer to take over from **Brady S.**, who has done



a great job. Fortunately, we got a response from Area 62 Chair Gareth Maher, who is willing to replace him gradually as his term of office winds down.

At SATF, Corcoran and Avenal we have 19 assigned sponsees and 34 on the waiting list. There are several volunteers who are awaiting orientation; once they've completed orientation and been assigned, **Bill H.** will re-open the sponsee faucet. Very grateful to Bill for coordinating three institutions and for continuing to spread the IVSS word at events and at the international corrections meeting.

CCWF (the only women's facility in Northern California) has 15 assigned sponsees and Miki just brought in more applications. This is the only facility where there are more volunteer sponsors than inside sponsees. **Leigh Ann M.** is the new coordinator at CCWF and a super new asset to this committee.

Salinas Valley State Prison has only one assigned sponsee due to the fact that we're not currently bringing H&I meetings into that institution. IVSS Coordinator **Dave R.** is waiting patiently, continuing to sponsor himself until the roadblock clears.

Folsom: We are getting ready to distribute applications on the inside. **Joe A.** has gotten solid volunteers, and hopefully we'll make our first match before our next quarterly meeting.

I've been working with Brady S. at CTF on ways we can streamline the inside application process. At CTF we have an inside liaison who is working with the coordinator, and we will start testing the viability of having inside members send their applications directly to the coordinator via text instead of the mailbox/PO Box system. We hope that will save time on making matches.

Sad to report that the rehab pilot program in Area 62 is showing disappointing results due to several factors, which basically boil down to the fact that rehab members are not really a captive audience, which our program was designed to serve. However, the idea of doing a pilot program in the County Jails is still being considered. I've been contacted by a lot of Area Chairs who are interested.

Our Grapevine success continues. There was an interview with me on our progress in the June Prison issue, and there was a wonderful article by one of Bill's volunteers published in La Viña. Bill has done an excellent job of encouraging his people to submit articles, so check out the La Viña article if you can.

Our video project continues to move forward. Once complete, we hope to post the videos on the website and on YouTube, not only to benefit Northern CA Committee members, but also the rest of the Country.

In closing, we always need volunteers. Most of the facilities mentioned are held back only because they don't want to hand out applications when they know there are no volunteers available. The desire to participate on the inside is huge and unquestionably the need is there. I will send out the usual mass email after this meeting, with the recruiting flyer, requesting the assistance of all Area Chairs and Regionals to support IVSS efforts. Please distribute as widely as you can. Outside members from anywhere in Northern California or in fact anywhere, can sponsor an inside member electronically.

Finance Committee Chair, Kelly B. Presently I am just looking at the monthly statement and clearing checks that come in on our roster. There have been just a few discrepancies that we figured out, otherwise all is well. The budget will be completed in the next couple of months.

NCCAA Conference Coordinator, Karen B. The next NCCAA Conference is March 20, 21 & 22, 2026 in San Ramon CA. The 2025 Fall Conference was canceled due to the proximity to the International General Service Conference. A flyer for the 2026 conference is in the planning stages, and the Conference Committee is looking at Stockton. More information will follow. A new Chair will be elected at the March 2026 Conference in San Ramon. Julio to send flyer to Thom to post on the website.



Literature Chair, Kelly B. It's been busy this month with orders going out. I had a family crisis going on, so please bear with me as I've been slow getting orders out. I've given Julio and Joe a job description in hopes that we can find a new candidate to be elected as NorCal Literature Chair.

Pink Can Coordinator, Peter M. During month of July I sent out 74 cans, so we currently have 58 pink cans on hand and 73 stickers. We are probably at the point where we need to order new cans.

Discussion: Price break is reasonable for smaller amounts. Julio recommends we order at least 200 new pink cans. \$1.10 each, lids \$0.25 each. Peter willing to buy labels and affix. He will get a bid for labels and investigate cost and amount for future orders. For now we will order 250 new cans.

Policy Chair, Penny C. Later in this meeting (Unfinished Business), I'll present the proposed changes in our policies. Those will need to pass by substantial unanimity.

Audio/Media Chair, Jeremiah P. All is well, happy to be here.

Archivist/Historian Chair, OPEN. Julio B. In the July newsletter, I posted the text of an article from San Quentin News in October 1950. The article describes a speech by Warden Duffy to the San Quentin Chapter of AA plus 100 outside AA members from Marin, Vallejo, San Francisco, Oakland, Contra Costa, Pittsburg, Kenfield and Ross. Warden Duffy's speech was also given at the First International Convention of AA in Cleveland, OH in July 1950.

Public Information Chair, Melody T.

Things have been quiet on the PI front. I hope our local committees are meeting requests for tables and displays, although I have not heard about any needs. I was asked to help with a workshop at a Unity Day in Sonora on October 11. I plan to go as Regional Chair and am looking forward to this event. I've been gathering and cleaning up display materials. If any Area needs help with displays or workshop materials, please let me know. I am happy to help.

Grapevine Chair, OPEN: N/A

Publisher Chair, OPEN: N/A

Spanish Communications Chair, Martin L.

Our goal is to have Regional (Spanish) Chairs attend their local Area meetings (English-speaking). I have been attending Area 92 in Fresno, where there is an orientation and a business meeting rotating every other month. On July 20 in Santa Rosa, I attended what we call the Inter-regional assembly that takes place every four months. We received some education from Julio on how to fill out Literature Form 2 documents correctly, which has been helpful. In addition to Julio, I would like to thank Omar Lopez from Region 140. The three of us have met on several occasions and I believe we are on the right track. Joyce has also contacted us regarding orientations for Spanish-speaking volunteers. Applications to Tulare County Jail have asked for credit checks.



Joyce and I contacted about this. I welcome any suggestions from any Area Chair or anyone on the Committee about improvements or implementing new items of business.

Reminder by Julio: If you are looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers for any facility, please reach out to **Martin L.**, who can contact local volunteers.

Website/Audio Chair, Thom H.

We've had a new onslaught of spam and had to institute a couple of changes in the way the website sends emails. Email messages now come from address handInorcal.org instead of handinorcal@gmail.com. If you ever get an email that looks like spam, do not "mark" as spam – because our sender is thus marked as a spam sender. I added some more anti-spam solutions to the website and we have almost 100% Spanish-language support for all forms. I met with Joe, Julio and Michael P. on a project to get the website re-done, which we will discuss later.

Registrar, Bruce A.

Everything is going well. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Julio: I want to remind everyone that if you are new to this committee or if your position, address or phone number has changed – please notify our registrar Bruce A. The roster is published in the last few pages of the newsletter, so please check your entry to be sure the information is correct. It is important that we have the most updated information on everyone serving on this committee.

Liaison Reports:

VATF, Sacramento Jeff L: No news.

H&I Liaison To CNCA, James C.

They had a successful conference in Alaska, and continue to discuss items on the conference agenda, such as anonymity and safety. At present the focus is on the International Conference taking place in July. New to the committee is the addition of a VENMO for non-profits account, geared toward making contributions to GS easier. My report included information about service positions opening up in H&I NorCal in July, our financial picture as well as possible cost-cutting measures, the IVSS program's outreach effort to find sponsors to those confined, the filling of the Spanish Communications Chair, and a mention of reports I have received about increasing cooperation with BTG in following up on those we reach in facilities after they have exited treatment or incarceration. I invited comments and suggestions.

General questions/comments submitted by area members:

- Comment by member in Area 61: Many inmates are hoping for in-person sponsorship, the current on-line format is felt to be too impersonal. I responded that this is problematic due to access and location issues, but that I would bring it to the attention of the NorCal committee.
- Inquiries about the possibility of a Spanish translation of the Plain Language Big Book.



H&I Liaison to CNIA, Vikki R. N/A

H&I Liaison to SoCal, James C.

The SoCal committee successfully wrapped up their conference in May, and there has been good participation in staffing this conference. They have also tabled the selection of next year's conference committee as the co-chair usually steps up to the chair position but is unable to do. They are also contemplating changes to the venue and length of the conference, chiefly for financial reasons. They have been filling the gaps in their SoCal committee roster, and several key positions have been filled. They are continuing to work at increasing individual member's participation at the H&I business meetings, as well as discussing ways in which they can better serve the Spanish-speaking community. They are continuing to discuss the need for better communication with the administration of the jails and other institutions such as prisons and stated they are making progress on finding ways to offer something like our IVSS program.

They are continuing to discuss ways to place QR codes on their literature that direct people to their website, or to a specific program on their website. There was information about a national database for Bridging the Gap and using this resource to contribute to their own partnership with BTG and more accurately reflect the status of their success rates in their Contact on Release committee.

My reports to SoCal H&I: I included a general statement of our current financial status, our efforts to better serve the Spanish-speaking community by forming a committee to look at ways of improving communication with the Spanish-speaking community and filling the Spanish

Communications Chair position, encouragement in implementing a program like our IVSS program. I invited comments and suggestions.

Liaison from SoCal to NorCal, Nikki J.

Not much else to add to James' report. I appreciate the great work you do in Northern CA and am here to be of service to my community in Southern CA but also because I learn from all that you do. I would like to see more people get more involved in H&I in Southern CA, and am not happy that our conference may be whittled down to one day.

Guest Report by Jackie B.

I am the Hearing Outreach Chair for a Special Forum for Deaf AA Members who use American Sign Language (ASL), Langue des Signes Québécois (LSQ) and Lengua de Señas Mexicanas (LSM). This is a General Service Office event to be held online on **January 17, 2026** and will be facilitated by Deaf AA members. For more information: www.DeafAA.org.

The website also gives access to the ASL Big Book, ASL 12&12, and Grapevine playlists. There are other plain language resources as well.

I am here to ask those of you who interact with staff in major correctional facilities, hospitals, county jails and treatment centers to spread the word about the January 2026 Forum and the DeafAA.org website with its many growing resources for Deaf members.



Open Committee Positions

1. **NorCal Committee Chair** is elected by the NorCal Committee using Third Legacy Procedure. This is a two-year term and may succeed self once. Qualifications: Five years of current and continuous sobriety; three years of active committee work in H&I at the Area and Regional levels.

Joe N. available. Sobriety date October 31, 2011. Became involved in H&I one year into sobriety in Area 71 Santa Clara. Began as secretary at the Julian Street Inn and later served as coordinator for several years. Since 2019, I've had the privilege of serving on NorCal Committee as Publisher, as well as unofficially the Audio-Media Chair/ Zoom host. In the past year I also served as current NorCal Vice Chair. My time and experience on the Committee has allowed me to collaborate with many of you and to gain a deeper understanding of the vital roles all of you play in carrying the message through H&I service. If voted in, I look forward to continuing that work, support our strong presence in H&I, and find ways to bring in more members to serve not only to H&I as a whole, but onto our NorCal Committee. Vote to elect Joe Nuñez: 25 YES, 1 No, 1 Abstain.

2. **Finance Committee Member #3.** One-year term. Qualifications: Hold position on NorCal Committee. Have minimum of five years continuous sobriety. Three years of active Committee work. Some knowledge of financial and/or accounting procedures is required. Third Legacy Procedure: NO one available for position – vote again in October.

Policies & Procedures Manual revisions – 2nd reading – SEE ATTACHED 2 PDF's

Committee went through 14 items plus Qualifications line by line per attached.

- **Item 1:** NORCAL Committee Definition, Section 2, pg 8
Vote: YES 26; 1 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Items 2, 3, 4 & 5** regarding IVSS will be addressed together. Updates concern technological changes that have occurred since the beginning and do not need to be covered individually.
Vote: YES 25; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Item 6:** A BRIEF HISTORY of H&I.
Vote: YES 25; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Item 7 (PUBLISHER) & Item 8 (LITERATURE CHAIR)**
Vote: YES 24; 1 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Item 9:** SPANISH COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR
Vote: YES 25; 1 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Item 10:** PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIR
Vote: YES 25; 1 ABSTAIN; 0 No
- **Item 11 (WEBSITE CHAIR) & Item 12 (LITERATURE POLICY)**
Vote: YES 24; 1 ABSTAIN; 0 No



- **Item 13 (AUDIO MEDIA CHAIR) & Item 14 (TREASURER)**

Vote: YES 26; 1 ABSTAIN; 1 No

- We reviewed sobriety requirements and qualifications of Committee positions for consistency (**see attached PDF**). Positions with sobriety requirements of 3 years, we added “one year of active work in H&I.” Positions with sobriety requirements of 5 years, we added “three years of active committee work in H&I” for all positions except for IVSS Volunteer and Liaison.

Vote: YES 23; 1 ABSTAIN; 1 No

Minority opinion: Area Chairs should have first-hand knowledge of being meeting coordinator.

New Business

Website Migration Plan

Background: NorCal Website Chair Thom H. was appointed in 2015 and through his innovation and commitment to service, he built and continues to maintain the H&I NorCal.org website. It is a fully customized platform with many features that Thom built into the site not available elsewhere at the time, making our website easy to navigate, user-friendly, and bilingual.

We began succession planning two years ago, searching for qualified candidates who might eventually replace Thom. However we have not yet found a single qualified candidate with the specific programming skills needed to operate and maintain our site. As time goes on, our reliance on a single individual to maintain the website places our committee at an ever-increasing risk of service disruption.

Web technology has evolved tremendously over the past decade. If we migrate our website to a more common platform such as WordPress, maintenance and updating will be simpler. Finding qualified candidates to rotate through the Web Chair position will be easier because there are many more people who work with WordPress. After discussion, I plan to make a motion to migrate and rebuild the website on the WordPress platform.

Thom H.:

It's been a long road and amazing to serve this committee. I want to point out that it has not been laborious for me to maintain the present website; it's actually been quite simple.

There are a lot of programmers out there but we have not been able to find someone to take over as Chair. So we are now exploring the idea that someone with WordPress skills would be easier to find and the site in its entirety would be easier to maintain.

A few years ago, someone was identified to take over as website chair; a subcommittee was created and we were going to migrate to WordPress, but the project lost steam. More recently I met with Michael P., who has a programming background and desire to help. He has been doing good work for the SF Area 62 H&I Committee.

Michael P.:

I've been through a similar process with web conversion with SF Intergroup. When I got sober, I bottomed out on Microsoft Windows and started using web software in 2005.



Around 2020, SF-Marin Intergroup decided to move into WordPress and we went through a very interesting process of asking ourselves who is the target audience; how we want to communicate, and if we are really doing the best we can to support AA as a whole, etc. It was a really good opportunity to think through how we communicate with our members. This team moved the SF-Marin website to WordPress and 3-4 years ago I came back as the Webmaster and have been maintaining it since then.

It's good to re-think a website every few years, what it looks like and what's being communicated. For example, we find that 80% of people looking at the SF-Marin Intergroup site are on their phones, which WordPress facilitates. I also recently made the San Francisco H&I website, and launched a coordinator's app to manage existing H&I volunteers, as well as new members who attend the orientation. My email is mpalsf@gmail.com and I'm happy to answer questions.

Discussion:

- WordPress subscription costs approximately \$100/month which would be a new expense. Thom has been paying for our web service out of pocket as his contribution to this Committee.
- Michael also suggested that we would be well-served by a professional web designer, which would be approximately 40 hours of service at \$60/hour = \$2400.
- Above expenses should be considered as we create next year's budget.
- Project leaders would be Thom Hickey and Michael Palladino.
- Website Advisory Committee would help guide the re-build, choose the basic template, oversee content, aesthetics, functionality. Over 4-6 month period Advisory Committee members would be asked to respond to weekly developments. We would also need to appoint a Chair of that Advisory Committee.
- Thom: Possible to do a lift-and-shift, i.e., lift what's there and get it running with the same look and feel. Maybe it is time to re-think who it is we are serving. We have analytics on what pages are being visited and what pages are not.
- Kelly: Are there discounts to get an annual subscription to WordPress vs. \$100/month?
- \$100/month gives 100,000 visits; 20GB local storage; 240GB of bandwidth. Lower level is \$25/month. There are plugins to consider for translation, calendar, contributions, etc.
- NorCal Committee owes much to Thom H.. Important to consider transferability of any position. We do not want to be dependent on one person's skills.
- Thom: There are many professional services organizations who specialize in PHP and Javascript. If anything happened to me, Committee would pay someone to maintain the site on an hourly basis at approximately \$70-\$80/hour. I've also given a lifetime warranty on the site.
- It seems that this proposal should go through the Finance Committee before we make decisions about creating a new website. We are at a point where we're in a negative, and will need to make adjustments.
- Ad-Hoc Committee to assess viability of creating a new website in WordPress (or something better) – led by Thom H. and Michael P.
- Others interested: Julio B., Bruce A.
- **Motion:** Approve rebuild and migration of NorCal H&I website to WordPress platform. Estimated expense \$100/month and one-time cost of \$2400 for designer. Expected time frame 4-6 months. Website Chair need only qualifications for WordPress skills. Ad-Hoc Committee formation.
- VOTE: 25 Yes; 1 Abstain; 0 Opposed.



Member Survey results from last quarter, prompted by questions and issues about:

1. Anonymity in correctional institutions. We surveyed major institution coordinators as to whether they are required to wear name badges that display their last names. Seven people responded (50%). One person said YES. Six said NO.
2. Liability insurance for H&I volunteers in correctional institutions. Major institution coordinators responded that no one has been required to supply insurance. One County Jail did require liability insurance, so we inquired further about this with County officials. We are now finalizing agreement with Santa Cruz County Jail that we will provide a certificate of insurance. Santa Clara County rehab facility also asked for liability insurance, but they backed off in consideration of H&I volunteers being visitors and not vendors or providers.

NOTE: Volunteers who are asked to wear name badges showing their last names, it was suggested to wear badges backwards so name is not visible to inside members -or- to present badges at check-in but not wear when with facility residents.

AA Anniversaries:

Joyce R., June 4 – 12 years

Alley G., April 24 – 7 years

Jim L., July 1 – 10 years

Jeff L., May 27 – 25 years

Bruce A., June 27 – 32 years

2:30pm End Meeting with Responsibility Declaration

H&I Regional & Area Reports JULY 2025

Region 01 Far North Coastal

- **Area 02 Del Norte, Melissa C.**
- **Area 03 Siskiyou, Rich C.** We have had the jail covered pretty well each week, and continue to try and expand the people cleared. We are going into the fire camp near Susanville and one more person is being cleared for Deadwood fire camp in North Siskiyou County.
- **Area 04 Humboldt, Timothy F.**

Region 10 Far North Interior

- **Area 11 Modoc, Ryan H.**
- **Area 12 Lassen, Open Position**



Region 15 Lower Far North Interior, Renee P.

Shasta County (Area 16): Things are going very well. We've been having orientations each month prior to our regular business meeting. We have had several facility coordinators rotating out and new one to replace them. Our jail is still doing the "behind the glass" meetings. We've heard that construction is under way to provide a new meeting room which will allow us to hold our regular meetings once again.

The fire camp application process is once again a mess. Jude Honne (Area 16 Chair) spoke to Jeff Little recently about this slow application processing. We are now going to try submitting the applications directly to the officials in charge at the Fire Camp we service (Sugar Pine Fire Camp).

Monthly H&I Committee Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30 at All Saints' Episcopal Church. **Tehama County (Area 17):** Business meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 838 Jefferson St., Red Bluff. They are now servicing 4 facilities, all of which fall under the "transitional housing" category. Their jail is under construction so no meetings are being brought in. They have new applicants that will be attending an orientation in August.

Trinity County (Area 18). They hold their monthly business meetings on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 730 @ St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 102 Church Street, Weaverville. They continue to bring meetings into the jail (men's and women's) side on Saturday mornings.

Our next Unity Day will be Saturday, September 27, 2025. Our local H&I Committee sponsored the 1st ever last year and passed the baton on to our District 1. Planning committee meetings are being held on a regular basis.

- **Area 16 Shasta, Jude H.** All is going well. We've had good turnouts at our orientations each month, bringing in new volunteers. Also, in the spirit of rotation, we have 5 new facility coordinators for Visions of the Cross, Juvenile Hall, Restpadd, Crestwood and Empire Recovery.
- At Shasta County Jail, we are still doing our meetings "behind the glass", with most of the meetings happening on the men's side. However, our women's coordinator spoke with our inside sponsor who indicated that construction is happening right now for a new meeting room, so regular meetings may start up again once the construction is complete. Clearances for the fire camp continue to be very slow, with applicants pending with CDCR since February. All meetings were covered at our 11 meetings in 9 facilities.
- **Area 17 Tehama, Mike D.**
- **Area 18 Trinity, Diane C.**

Region 20 Northern Coastal

- **Area 21 Mendocino, Ryan Y.**
Mens Jail Report: The Friday evening AA meetings are going well. There are 4 meetings a month and literature is up to date.

Woman's Jail Report: We have had some trouble here with finding and keeping volunteers. We are at 1 meeting a month. I have vetted 2 new women so I hope to have at least 2 meetings a month very soon. We are waiting on clearance.

Juvenile Hall Report: This is going very well. We are currently at 2 meetings a month, every other Sunday. There is one more woman I am in the process of getting paperwork for. The kids like the meetings and have spoken about attending AA upon release. Literature is good.

Ukiah Recovery Center: We have 4 meetings a month, every Friday, This place is always the one we get the most volunteers for. There is no fingerprint process so people with solid recovery can go in to speak and share the message of AA. Literature is up to date.



Ft Bragg Hospitality Center: Meetings are on Tuesday mornings with some 2-10 participants. Literature is good.

Parlin Fork Fire Camp: Meetings are every Sunday.

- **Area 22 Sonoma, Liz W.**
- **Area 23 Lake, Kelli S.**

Region 30 Northern Interior

- **Area 31 Glenn Butte, Jim L.**

Butte Co. Jail-Have covered most scheduled meeting nights with a few dark nights due to facility understaffing, or volunteer unavailability on both mens and womens side. Still continue to actively get more qualified volunteers approved for mens and womens side.

Butte Co. Juvenile Hall-Still awaiting facility superintendent clearances to take meetings in. Current facility coordinator has been proactive, with emails & calls, in the hopes of getting the clearance process moving forward.

Glenn Co. Jail-have covered, on average, 3 of 4 scheduled meeting dates for the men's facility. Currently do not have any qualified female volunteers for womens side. Still actively trying to get more qualified volunteers for mens and womens facilities.

Skyway House Recovery Center-Have covered all weekly scheduled meeting nights with no dark nights. Rotating in new qualified volunteers as they become available.

Bell Vida/Compassion Pathways-Have covered all bi-monthly scheduled meeting nights. Rotating in new volunteers as needed.

Jesus Center-Continue to cover all weekly meetings with no dark dates. Have experienced a slight increase in attendance census which is encouraging. Have rotated in new qualified volunteers.

We continue to supply & monitor all served facilities with an appropriate amount of approved literature and pamphlets. We encourage all those interested in being of service, in our area, to attend our monthly area committee meeting held on the first Monday of every month.

- **Area 32 Plumas, Michael B.**

- **Area 34 Placer, Rick M. (Chair), Diane McL. (Co-Chair)**

Area 34, Placer County H&I is doing well. We have a new staff at the Placer County jail and they are putting through our jail applications in a very timely manner. For the last few years we have had great difficulty with our jail applications but that seems to be a thing of the past. We have had regular PREA training offered to our volunteers so that also helps things proceed more smoothly.

We are currently servicing 15 different facilities.

We have most monthly business meetings on Zoom except for our quarterly meetings which are held in person.

We decided as a group conscience to return the 5% distribution given to us by NorCal. We sent back \$2,765.93 to No Cal, leaving us with a current balance in our prudent reserve of \$1,000.10. We will be using some of this reserve for an upcoming workshop in September.

I learned early in recovery that the appropriate response to people who serve is "thank you for your service." Also, reach out and offer to help when we see someone struggling. We do not judge but are grateful for their service. Service is a spiritual act. We had a couple people complaining about other people's service, so I made a group announcement on this topic at last month's business meeting. We haven't had any more complaints, so I think those people heard what I was saying.



- **Area 36 Nevada Sierra, Amy M.** We are now serving our local un-housed shelter with a weekly meeting. The population is transient so we just read from the book to protect everyone's anonymity as it is highly possible people who go to the meeting may not actually be interested in sobriety... but we hope to plant a seed and we have helped folks find sobriety in this facility in the past... so we hope to reach at least ONE person. The volunteer that is coordinating is GUNG HO and we hold out hope that this meeting gets off the ground with all of our love and support. We are looking for a new coordinator for our womens facility HOPE HOUSE. As our current coordinator had to step down after medical issues. We wish her well and are actively trying to fill this commitment.

Region 40 Central Interior, Terry D.

Area 42 Yolo Sacramento, Roger McM. We just had our Business Meeting July 15. We are adding new Facility's every Month! We are putting word out that we need help to bring Hope where there is no Hope!

- **Area 43 El Dorado, Todd D.** All is the same this quarter in Area 43.
- **Area 44 Amador, OPEN**
- **Area 45 Colusa Sutter Yuba, Alley G.** A few issues have popped up with volunteers, and all have been addressed.

We are still having issues with getting appropriate number of clearances for our Jail in Yuba County. I am in contact with the facility and actively working on ways to address this issue. If anyone has experienced this and found a solution I would love to hear how you were able to get through this issue.

Positive note, we have started the clearance process to begin a women's meeting in our Colusa County jail. Women in the facility have been reaching out, and we have found women able to make the drive and bring a meeting to that facility!

Our committee is growing slowly but surely back to our pre-covid participation. With the addition of a few new treatment facilities and another inquiry this morning about starting another meeting, I am hopeful by the end of my term next year our committee will be (close) back to where we were pre-covid.

Region 50 East Bay

- **Area 51 Napa, John K.** As our July meeting was scheduled for the 4th, we will cover July and August on August 1. Napa Jail (Men's, Women's and Spanish) meetings are progressing, and hoping to make a successful transition to the new facility. Crestwood Angwin meetings are looking good to re-start. We have a volunteer to coordinate and are working to connect with the facility to formalize. During COVID we were providing literature to St. Helena Hospital's Mental Health unit and are now discussing possibility of H&I meetings on-site. The Bridge, a private rehab, has asked for H&I meetings...they may attend our business meeting, and we have asked for more info.
- **Area 52 Contra Costa, Annetta D.** Meetings are going strong – although we did have a couple of dark nights at the women's detention center in Richmond. We have new ladies approved through the clearance process just waiting for the facility to conduct their mandatory orientation and then we will be back with a full roster. We are currently working on our 2025 H & I workshop that will be on August 23rd in Walnut Creek. All are welcome - you can text me for a flyer 707-332-1349 if you would like more info.
- **Area 53 Alameda, Annie G.**
How things are going. We continue to welcome 5–10 new volunteers at each monthly orientation, and our Area is steadily growing. There's a lot of energy right now—new faces, new commitments, and a shared



sense of purpose. Our annual picnic is coming up on August 24 in Oakland (all are welcome!)—a chance to connect, celebrate, and express our gratitude for the important work being done in H&I. We continue to see strong attendance and engagement from H&I Reps. Recently, we took time to review why NorCal does not include a QR code on the Pink Can. As a result, the Area is now better informed and aligned on the reasoning behind this decision—and knows what to do in their groups.

What's going well. Orientation sessions continue to be well attended, drawing a diverse group from those in their first year of sobriety to longtime members with decades of experience. Our business meetings are thriving, with strong participation and meaningful, positive dialogue. We're also excited to be adding four new facilities to our roster.

Do you have enough volunteers to meet your needs? We're fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers, including newer members stepping up to start meetings. We do still have a couple of open service positions: Recording Secretary (recently filled!) and Co-Chair.

Upcoming: Our Area is exploring the possibility of hosting the Annual H&I NorCal Conference. The next step is filling the Chair position, though no one has stepped up just yet.

- **Area 54 Solano, Jen B.** Over the past quarter, Area 54 has remained active and committed to carrying the message into facilities, with steady support from our volunteers. Meetings continue at Men's and Women's Jails, CSP Solano, Fire Camp, CMF, and City Church, though some locations—particularly CMF, Fire Camp, and CSP Solano—are in urgent need of more volunteers. The new Plain Language Big Books have been well received by inmates, especially those with limited literacy. Volunteers continued showing up with dedication, even on holidays like Memorial Day.

We now have a new coordinator for Fire Camp—Scot Babot. Eddie Flores has stepped down from the coordinator position but continues to volunteer at the facility. We thank Eddie sincerely for his dedicated service and welcome Scot into this role.

The Area also voted to approve a motion to use the 5% rebate to pay rent annually, eliminating the need to pass the 7th Tradition basket at each monthly meeting. This change is intended to simplify the treasurer's responsibilities and better align with NorCal H&I's goal of supporting local Areas. Area 54 also responded to a request from Colusa County Jail for AA support and is coordinating with nearby Areas to meet the need. I'm grateful for everyone's continued commitment to H&I service. Your efforts truly make a difference.

Region 60 West Bay San Francisco, Chair, James C.

There continues to be good turnout for new volunteers at the monthly orientations for each area, and we are seeing the coordinators attending business meetings. Each area is pushing for coordinators and secretaries to use the new member list to involve new members in H&I service right away. The issues with access to those in jails continues to have challenges, but new meetings are being added to the existing rosters in addition to existing meetings. No word yet in area 62 about the success of the pilot program to expand the IVSS program into treatment centers, though it looks like there has been interest at a few treatment centers for this service. I have also yet to hear how the PLBB is being received in facilities, though I can say in area 61 the inmates at the Marin County jail state they like it, being easier to understand than the language in the BB. I have received queries about the possibility of a PLBB in Spanish, and said I would bring it up at the business meeting in July.

There are a couple of topics I brought up at each business meeting: to stress the importance of business meeting attendance by not only coordinators and meeting representatives, but also new volunteers looking to become involved in H&I, highlighting the notion of using the new member list for finding facility speakers. A second topic I try to mention at each of the business meetings is H&I finances, and the need to improve the current level of donations. I invited comments and suggestions.



- **Area 61 Marin Hilary D.** We continue to have openings for secretaries & alternates at our mental health facilities and our homeless shelters. I'm sure we are not alone in the homeless shelter situation. Since the federal funding said that they can no longer require sobriety, meeting attendance is minimal. Sundays were an issue, so we have switched Jonathan's Place to Thursdays. 2 facilities have openings for coordinators. I am acting as coordinator for them. We are doing follow up emails with everyone who attends H&I Orientation to facilitate more engagement. Other than that things are going well. We serve 13 facilities with a total of 22 meetings per week.
- **Area 62 San Francisco Gareth M.** We're excited to share several important updates from our recent outreach efforts and program developments:

Women's Jails Meeting Launch. We've successfully gathered enough women volunteers to begin hosting a new **women's meeting at CJ2 downtown**. This marks a significant expansion of our service work in correctional facilities.

Pop-Up Orientation Success. Our **pop-up orientation at the Presbyterian Church on 7th Ave** was a big success. It helped bring in a number of new volunteers across various types of meetings.

H&I Curious Online Event. Following our online orientation, we hosted an **H&I Curious** online event. Though only three people attended, the feedback was very positive, and a couple of attendees signed up for volunteer positions.

New Website Launch — handisf.org. Our new website is now live and proving to be a great tool! It includes:

- The Zoom link for online orientation
- A list of open volunteer positions
- Information about upcoming business meetings and orientations
- An online sign-up form for oriented volunteers to take a position

As Area Chair, I've found the site incredibly helpful—many of the common questions can now be answered by simply directing people to the site.

IVSS Program in rehabs. Unfortunately, the **IVSS program in rehabs** has been struggling. While we had 20 sponsors sign up, we've only matched 3 with sponsees so far.

We believe this is due to:

- Clients are able to attend outside meetings
- Facility staff not fully understanding or supporting the IVSS program
- Other groups already serving these facilities, making our efforts less visible

In response, we made a **group decision to reintroduce "Bridging the Gap" cards** at the end of our facility meetings to help support the transition from treatment to recovery in the community.

- **Area 65 San Mateo Mark W. (Co-Chair) & Dylan H. (Co-Chair)**

Region 70 Southern Coastal

- **Area 71 Santa Clara, Mike S.**

- **Area 72 Monterey, Cindy A.**

We are on the upswing after Covid; getting more volunteers approved to go into the County Jails, getting our other facilities back in the swing of things with full schedules of volunteers going in. We are slightly more active than last quarter.



Going well: We have more volunteers to take meetings in.
Not Going Well: Lack of volunteers to fill committee positions.

Thank you for being there to answer questions since we have new leadership in our Area.

- **Area 73 Santa Cruz, Victoria H.**

Overall, things are going well and neutral. H&I's level of activity has stayed pretty much the same since last quarter. We have not received many volunteer interest forms submitted on our website during this quarter and am working with our committee to see how we may increase volunteer interest. I'd also like to try and engage more with our neighboring city of Watsonville that is part of Santa Cruz county and includes many Spanish speaking communities.

We did run into an issue with our county's jail and needing to get liability insurance for our volunteers going in, but eventually got it resolved with Julio to allow getting covered under NorCal H&I's insurance.

- **Area 74 San Benito, Doug S.**

Region 80 Chair, Melody T.

Region 80 continues to move quietly along, with no major issues. Only Areas 81 and 82 hold regular business meetings. There is regular H&I activity in all the areas, however, in the county jails, recovery centers and sober living environments. Just recently I received a call from a volunteer in Merced. He was very helpful in providing some other contacts for volunteers there. This could be the needed break I need to get a group of volunteers together and have a workshop in Area 86. Maybe we can increase interest in having a little more organization and communication.

- **Area 81 Stanislaus, Pete D.**

- **Area 82 San Joaquin, Paula A.**

- Things are going strong—we've got an application workshop scheduled, focused on CHCF and County Jail applications. Should be a great help for anyone interested in getting involved. Recovery Central has offered their fellowship for the workshop.
- No major challenges to report at this time.
- We're looking forward to the Delta Intergroup Picnic, where H&I will have a table like last year.
- All facility coordinator positions are currently filled, with some recent transitions.
- We moved all of Area 82 literature and found new literature reps due to our longtime rep, Tony L., stepping back for health reasons. He's definitely in our thoughts. Appreciative to those who stepped up and moved books.
- Our monthly committee meeting continues to grow, and participation has been on the rise—which is great to see.

- **Area 83 Tuolumne, Travis T.**

- **Area 84-Calaveras Andrew K.**

Unfortunately Area 84 has little new to report.

More people are interested in volunteering but still no clearances. We are having one volunteer call the Sheriff as she's a personal friend to try and get us moving.

- **Area 86 Merced, Paul C.**



Region 90 Far Southern Interior

- Area 91 Madera Mariposa, Miki S.

- Area 92 Fresno, Katherine S. Area 92 currently brings H&I into:

- o Fresno County Men's and Women's Jail
- o Fresno County Juvenile Hall
- o Touchstone Recovery Center
- o MyTime Sober Living
- o Total Life Recovery (TLC)
- o The Poverello House
- o Comprehensive Addiction Program (CAP)
- o Mendota Federal Prison
- o Pleasant Valley State Prison (PVSP)
- o Horizon's Health
- o Fresno First

- Area 93 Tulare, Joyce R.

We continue to hold H&I meetings in 8 different Treatment Facilities and the Tulare County Jail monthly. We hold English and Spanish H&I meetings at the Tulare County Jail, and hope we can offer this soon in the Treatment Facilities we serve. We continue to have new volunteers join us. Currently, we have 4 new Spanish Speaking volunteers who are interested in going into our County Jail which will increase our ability to carry the message. We are working with Region 190 to orient these volunteers and give them the opportunity to participate in treatment facility H&I meetings while they are in the process of being cleared. Our Area H&I meeting is held on the 2nd Saturday of odd months at 10:00 am in person with orientation at 9:00 am and as needed in between.

- Area 95 Kings, Open Position

Region 140 Spanish North Interior, Omar L.

COMMITTEE OF H&I REGION 140 SPANISH SPEAKERS.
2251 FLORIN RD. SUITE #142 SACRAMENTO CA, 95822
LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM.

COORDINATOR: Omar Lopez 916-389-4291. Email gomar1630@gmail.com
SECRETARY: Lety A. 916-417-7453. (VACANCY)
TREASURER: Lety A. 916-417-7453.

LINK TO THE RICHMOND EAST BAY AREA INTERGROUP OFFICE:
FIDEL P. 925-432-8924 / GERMAN A. 510-978-2346
PINK CANS EAST BAY AREA: LUPE M. 510-685-5629

LINK TO THE SACRAMENTO LATIN CENTRAL OFFICE:
Lety A. 916-417-7453 / Omar L. 916-389-4291.

LINK TO SACRAMENTO DISTRICT 54 OFFICE:
Celestino S. 209-696-0872.



LINK TO THE GRIDLEY DISTRICT 57:
Pablo S. 530-933-8919:

TREASURER: Beginning balance \$ 380.00 Revenue \$ 57.00 Expenses \$ 197.00 Prudent Reserve Total \$ 0
Ending balance \$ 240.00

Correctional Medical Facility (C.M.F.) State Prison in Vacaville.

COORDINATOR: Fidel P. 925-432-8924: At the C.M.F. State Prison in Vacaville, 60 to 80 inmates are arriving for the Board AA meeting on Saturday from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. And yes, we Need Volunteers!!!

Solano State Prison in Vacaville:

COORDINATOR: Fidel P. 925-432-8924.

At Solano State Prison in Vacaville, 33 inmates are arriving for the meeting. The AA meetings are on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. We have 4 servers carrying the A.A. message. But we need more servers!!!

Napa State Hospital.

COORDINATOR: Manuel A. 707-318-2184

AA Meetings are on Mondays from 9:20 to 11:20 am. And an average of 20 residents are arriving: we have 12 servers, but we do need volunteers!!

Marsh Creek Detention Facility in Clayton.

COORDINATOR: Fidel P. 925-432-8924:

At Marsh Creek Jail, AA meetings have been suspended due to lack of attendance by Spanish-speaking inmates.

El Chante Recovery House in Oakland.

COORDINATOR: German A. 510-978-2346.

At El Chante, AA Meetings are on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. And 10 to 20 residents are arriving; we need Volunteers!!!

San Quentin Rehabilitation Center State Prison.

COORDINATOR: Lupe M. 510-685-5629.

At San Quintin State Prison in San Francisco, the AA meetings are on Saturday at 11:00 to 12:30 pm. And average of 100 to 150 inmates are arriving; we need Volunteers!!!



Monroe Detention Center (Woodland Jail).

COORDINATOR: Ramiro 415-408-8957

IVSS coordinator in San Quintin Ramiro was completed all the application to get a sponsor around to 10 applications in the last month of June.

They were asking for volunteers to open AA meetings in Spanish (just men for the moment). The AA meeting will be on Saturday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. They have many Latinos. We'll start the meetings ASAP.

1. We established contact with Joe A. from Folsom State Prison to find volunteers (sponsors in Spanish service) by phone and video call. We're working on that.

2- We established contact with Jesus V. Coordinator of region 180 to cover and get the first contact with Cecilia of Mule Creek lone to start working in this facility with Spanish speakers because the region 180 is the area in charge to cover this facility in the County of Amador CA.

Region 160 Spanish North Coast, Jose Luis C.

Region 170, Spanish, Roberto S.

Region 180 Spanish Central Interior, Jesus V.

Region 190 Spanish South Interior, Martin L.

Major Institutions Reports JULY 2025

ASP Avenal, Monte S. (see B.Hatzman report on Avenal and Corcoran below)

CCWF & VSP Chowchilla, Miki S.

CHCF Stockton, Melody T.

Sadly, H&I is still not able to go into CHCF as we are waiting for "a start date from management." I have my Brown Card, and on July 17, I "docusigned" for a new CHIT. Another volunteer's application was sent for final approval, and a third needs to complete the training.

There is still an issue with the online trainings – some volunteers are not being admitted through the facility firewall and have to go in person and use a facility computer. We continue to inch closer! The current CRM is still on maternity leave. The CRM's assistant is managing all the volunteer paperwork, and the CRM from SVSP is helping out with administration. We continue to have literature delivered, including a recent large Spanish literature request from the visiting CRM. We thank Pete and Area 81 for their support and interest in recruiting volunteers.

Hope springs eternal!

CMF Vacaville, Danny K.

CTF Soledad, Alex S.

FCI Herlong, OPEN

FCI Mendota, OPEN



FSP Folsom, Jamie W.

MCSP Mule Creek, Cecilia S.

I am still trying to attend all current active meetings to see what type of meeting they are for new volunteer placement. I now have 10 new volunteers, 5 cleared to go into the prison. My goal is to have volunteers cover all H&I meetings at Mule Creek. I am excited to announce that Omar found a Spanish speaking volunteer for the Spanish morning meeting in B Yard. Yards A, B and C have been closed for the past two months. B and C Yards have reopened as of July 7th with A Yard still closed.

The CRM office put out a memorandum on new "Donation Pick-up Procedure." All donations will now be picked up during regular business hours. CRM staff will no longer be available to retrieve items from the warehouse. The volunteer or program who sends in the donation will now handle the pick-up from the warehouse and delivery. All must coordinate in advance with the CRM office.

Still making announcements that more volunteers are needed in local meetings and asked Area 42 to please announce at their local meetings. I am currently looking for a Coordinator for the IVSS program.

Napa State Hospital, Mark B.

Twelve meetings were scheduled for Apr May and June. Nine were held and three were blacked out by staff, two of those when no staff escort was available and the third for a covid quarantine.

One of the meeting locations is undergoing much needed construction that makes access a bit challenging and makes the meeting even more rewarding for both patients and H&I volunteers!

Literature is well stocked and the patients look forward to Grapevine y La Viña.

PBSP Pelican Bay, David R.

PVSP Pleasant Valley Coalinga, Jeff S.

We made our regular panel visits inside Thursday 7/3/25 & 7/17/25. Access was good. Host & staff were helpful. We have 11) Volunteer Speakers that are committed & cleared. I have 2) in the prison's ques for access. We split to 3) units between the Bravo, Alpha & Delta meetings each visit. We typically have 2-3 speakers in each unit. Delta (Spanish speakers)

STILL need Spanish speaking volunteers!! We keep working on recruiting. I have 1) now, 0) in que for access.

Our next meeting is August 7th

CSP Sacramento, Michael L.

SATF & COR Corcoran, Bill H.

Visiting Volunteer Activity

Avenal State Prison

ASP- 8 Volunteers cleared (5 English and 3 Spanish speaking). A small number of cleared volunteers, work schedules, and transportation limitations will likely continue to contribute to relatively few visits to this facility. 6 English and 6 Spanish Speaking groups meet are held weekly. All AA groups meet on Tuesdays (2 from 3-5 PM and 4 from 5-7 PM).

Meetings held each month at ASP: 48- 24 English, 24 Spanish

Meetings AA volunteers attend each month at ASP: 3 (Average)



Incarcerated Meeting Attendees: The English and Spanish AA meetings at ASP are run separate but held together in a large room. 150 attendees total on each of the 6 yards or a **total attendance of 900 at ASP each week**. We support the literature needs for all of these.

Corcoran State Prison

COR- 7 Volunteers cleared (4 English and 3 Spanish speaking). Application for 1 new English volunteer is pending. 3 English volunteers visit weekly (between rotations with SATF), 3 others visit as schedule allows- 2 live in So Cal. 1 of the 3 Spanish visits weekly (between rotations at ASP & SATF), 2 others visit as their availability allows.

Meetings held each month at COR: 40- 36 English, 4 Spanish

Meetings AA volunteers attend each month at COR: 6 (Average)

Incarcerated Meeting Attendees: Meetings at COR vary between 15-25 attendees per meeting. I estimate the **total attendance of 800 at COR each week**. We support the literature needs for all of these.

Substance Abuse Treatment Facility at Corcoran State Prison (SATF)

SATF- 10 Volunteers cleared- (7 English and 3 Spanish Speaking). Application for 1 new English volunteer is pending.

Meetings held each month at SATF: 46- 34 English, 12 Spanish

Meetings AA volunteers attend each month at SATF: 6 (Average)

Incarcerated Meeting Attendees: Each meeting has a capacity of 25 attendees. **Total attendance of 1,150 at SATF each week**. Meetings at SATF are not held on the 5th week of the month. We support the literature needs for all of these.

**** The pool of volunteers for Avenal, Corcoran, and SATF is shared, with no more than 9 individuals cleared in total. Nearly all of them serve at two or even all three institutions.****

Report 2's report only the instances when our volunteers attend a meeting in the institution.

Lit orders- Continue at COR, SATF and ASP. The CRM at Avenal encourages digital literature use, limiting printed copies, but allows small batch restocking in meeting rooms. There are currently no similar limitations imposed at COR or SATF.

Our 12 Steps - In response to persistent and consistent requests for an "AA Step Working Guide" we have begun sharing this new Grapevine book. Taking efforts to explain the sentiment that this book offers various examples of our members experience with our 12 steps seems to drive a favorable response. We will continue to share this resource to see where it can meet the need for assistance in understanding how we take the 12 steps.

Plain Language Big Book – This book is now available on the tablets, and printed copies are being provided as a study resource to the groups.

Form 2's are attached



IVSS Activity

We have launched the Electronic Option elements at Corcoran and Avenal. SATF approval was granted in Jan 2025 with a requirement that the CRM office route the incarcerated applications to us. Since November 2024 we've been able to match incarcerated AA's to outside sponsors, but we currently have a large waiting list pending available sponsors. This waiting list has prevented us from proceeding with the launch at SATF.

- AA meetings at these three institutions are attended by nearly 3,000.
- Currently 19 of the 32 Active sponsors have completed an orientation. 16 oriented sponsors are assigned.
- We have 59 incarcerated Active Sponsees Approved, 23 are assigned, 36 are awaiting sponsors. We have suspended distribution of applications until those on the waiting list are accommodated.
- Concerns about ensuring the sponsor's anonymity inside the institution have prevented us so far from introducing the Visiting element of IVSS. We have approval to proceed with a One Day pass alternative method of scheduling a face to face meeting at COR. Our first sponsor to proceed with this process is pending final approval from visiting. We hope to expand this concept once it is proven to work.
- Awareness efforts continue within the fellowship. Recent activities include:
 - **Sundays**- Attend International Corrections Meeting online every Sunday I am able. Have connected with Dru R NNJ Intergroup and Area 44 Corrections; Jenn B. of NJ (who will attend Soledad event April 4-6) and others. At 3 PM today (7/27), I will be speaking about IVSS at this meeting.
 - **Sat, Mar 8**- As a Panel member for H&I panel at NCCAA in Merced on March 8th featured IVSS and 1st Annual AA Speaker Jam at Avenal on Jun 7, 2025.
 - **Sat Mar 8**- Area 93 Chair is helping raise awareness about IVSS and Avenal Speaker Jam event and distributed flyers and applications. Also has expressed an interest to help financially if needed.
 - **Mon, Mar 10**- Visiting Kern and North Kern Prisons to help share awareness with the community to our near south border.
 - **Sun, Mar 16**- Attended the Region 190 (Spanish NorCal H&I) Quarterly Service Meeting in Fresno on Mar 16 to share info with members about IVSS and Jun 10 AA Speaker Jam at Avenal. Applications and flyers in Spanish were distributed.
 - **Sat, Mar 22** - Attended Preconference Assembly at Recovery Club in Porterville and the 35th Anniversary meeting of Grupo Humildes in Visalia to meet with local members and build awareness. Spanish IVSS Flyers were distributed. 3 Applications were distributed, 1 Application was submitted for Avenal Speaker Jam.
 - **Sat, May 10** – Spring into Sobriety Event in Visalia featured a recorded message from Ivan L GSR, inside Coordinator, IVSS Sponsee and recent parolee.
 - **Sat May 17** - Panel at So Cal H&I conference featured Inside Sponsorship in Ventura. Sponsors were recruited.
 - **July/Aug La Vina Magazine** featured Israel B's story of IVSS Sponsorship. Several others have submitted Grapevine and La Vina stories about our experience with hope to build awareness throughout a larger geography.
 - **2025 ICAA** Sponsors recruited in Corrections meetings/workshops

1st Annual AA Speaker Jam at Avenal State Prison – Sat, May 31, Jun 7 and Jun 21, 2025

We held our first conference event at Avenal SP. Three Groups of 20 volunteers (English and Spanish speakers) met 165 incarcerated AA's over successive Saturdays. Event received positive reviews from ASP Warden/Staff, incarcerated and visiting groups. We are welcomed to return in early Spring 2026 and to increase our activity to twice annually.

SCC Jamestown, OPEN

SOL Solano, John D.



SQ San Quentin, Curtis C.

- Last report I mentioned SQ needed to approve the 12 STEPS/TRADITIONS/CONCEPTS window shades for the the Spanish-speaking group. This was approved by the NorCal Committee: two months later I am still awaiting SQ CRM office to approve the "Donation Form". The items are still on backorder with AAWS so I have some time to hedge.
- Continued need for AA volunteers who meet the NorCal Large Institution requirements, with even a greater need for Spanish-speakers for the Saturday afternoon meeting. A few long time volunteers have not renewed or have dropped off.
- Recent Literature order (Plain Language Big Book) has been fulfilled and received with the help of the NorCal Literature Chair Kelly Bennett.
- ARC classroom meetings were relocated in May due to major construction projects at SQ that will last another several months.

USP Atwater, OPEN

IVSS Program Report for 2025-07-27

The **Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service** is the H&I program to provide outside one-on-one sponsorship to confined alcoholics, primarily those in state prisons. We're currently serving 8 prisons in Northern CA.

As of 6/30/2025 we have 177 inside members who have applied and 143 have sponsors – the inside members being served has increased 8% since my last report in April.

- **San Quentin** remains our dominant facility with 90 assigned sponsees. Maxie V, our long-time and most senior Coordinator is looking to reach the 100 mark by the end of the year.
- **CTF Soledad** has 18 assigned members. I recently sent out a mass email requesting a volunteer to take over from Brady, who's done a great job of confirming and reassigning matches but needs to rotate out. Gareth M., the current A62 Chair has volunteered to replace him gradually as his term of office winds down over the next year and Brady has graciously agreed to continue until then.
- **SATF/Cor/Avenal** complex of 3 facilities has 19 assigned sponsees with 34 on the waitlist. There are a number of volunteers who are awaiting orientation and once they've been oriented & assigned Bill will re-open the sponsee faucet. Bill continues to spread the IVSS word at events & at the weekly Internat'I Corrections meeting.
- **Central Ca Women's Facility** has 15 assigned sponsees and Miki just brought in more applications, as this is the one facility where we actually have more volunteer sponsors than inside sponsees. Leigh Ann M., the new IVSS Coordinator has hit the ground running.
- **Salinas Valley SP** only has 1 assigned sponsee due to the fact that we're not currently bringing H&I meetings into the institution. Dave is waiting patiently & continuing to sponsor until the roadblock clears.
- **Folsom SP** – completing Joe's training & getting ready to distribute apps on inside. Joe has gotten solid vols, and hopefully we'll be making our first match before our next quarterly meeting.

I've been working with Brady at CTF on ways to streamline the inside application process. CTF is the test institution for an Inside Member Liaison who works directly with the Coordinator & we're going to start testing the viability of having inside members send their apps directly to the Coordinator via text instead of going thru the mail/po box system to save time on the matches.



The **IVSS Rehab** pilot program in Area 62 is showing disappointing results due to several factors, which basically boil down to the fact that they're not really a captive audience, which our program was designed to serve. However doing a pilot for County jails is still being considered, especially since we've had several local area members request it.

Grapevine success continues, an interview with me on our progress appeared in the June prison issue & a wonderful article from Ismael, one of Bill's vols was published in La Vina. Bill has done an excellent job of encouraging his people to submit articles.

IVSS Video project continues to move forward, once complete we're hoping to post the training videos on the website and YouTube to assist not only our NorCal Committee but also the rest of the country in setting up the service.

As always, WE NEED VOLS! Most of the facilities I talked about are held back only because we don't want to hand out apps when we know we don't have vols available and the desire to participate from the inside is unquestionably there. I'll send out the regular mass email after this meeting with the recruiting flyer, requesting the assistance of all Area Chairs and Regionals to support our efforts. Please distribute it as widely as you can, as outside members from anywhere can sponsor an inside member electronically.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Czujko, IVSS Chair

LIAISON Reports July 2025

SoCal H&I liaison report James C.:

The SoCal committee successfully wrapped up their conference in May, and there has been good participation in staffing this conference. They have also tabled the selection of next year's conference committee as the co-chair usually steps up to the chair position, but is unable to do. They are also contemplating changes to the venue and length of the conference, chiefly for financial reasons. They have been filling the gaps in their SoCal committee roster, and several key positions have been filled. They are continuing to work at increasing individual member's participation at the H&I business meetings, as well as discussing ways in which they can better serve the Spanish-speaking community. They are continuing to discuss the need for better communication with the administration of the jails and other institutions such as prisons, and stated they are making progress on finding ways to offer something like our IVSS program.

They are continuing to discuss ways to place QR codes on their literature that direct people to their website, or to a specific program on their website. There was information about a national database for Bridging the Gap and using this resource to contribute to their own partnership with BTG and more accurately reflect the status of their success rates in their Contact on Release committee.

My reports to SoCal H&I: I included a general statement of our current financial status, our efforts to better serve the Spanish-speaking community by forming a committee to look at ways of improving communication with the Spanish-speaking community and filling the Spanish

Communications Chair position, encouragement in implementing a program like our IVSS program. I invited comments and suggestions.



CNCA liaison report James Canter

They had a successful conference in Alaska, and continue to discuss items on the conference

agenda, such as anonymity and safety. At present the focus is on the International Conference taking place in July. New to the committee is the addition of a VENMO for non-profits account, geared toward making contributions to GS easier. My report included information about service positions opening up in H&I NorCal in July, our financial picture as well as possible cost-cutting measures, the IVSS program's outreach effort to find sponsors to those confined, the filling of the Spanish Communications Chair, and a mention of reports I have received about increasing cooperation with BTG in following up on those we reach in facilities after they have exited treatment or incarceration. I invited comments and suggestions.

General questions/comments submitted by area members:

- Comment by member in Area 61: Many inmates are hoping for in-person sponsorship, the current on-line format is felt to be too impersonal. I responded that this is problematic due to access and location issues, but that I would bring it to the attention of the NorCal committee.
- Inquiries about the possibility of a Spanish translation of the Plain Language Big Book.



2026 Budget Workbook

	Jan - Aug 25	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Rationale	2026 Proposed Budget	Budget Rationale
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income			YTD Mo Average used for projection unless otherwise stated		
Area Contributions					
Check Contributions	297,741.96	432,741.96	Used LY Sept - Dec	445,000.00	
Online Contributions	146,810.08	202,381.74	Used LY Sept - Dec	203,000.00	
Total Area Contributions	444,552.04	635,123.70		648,000.00	
Processor Fees	-4,701.44	-6,476.22	fees = 3.32% of projected contributions	-6,496.00	
Total Income	439,850.60	628,647.48		641,504.00	To bring in line with actual + 2 % increase
Expense					
Literature Expense					
AAWS					
AAWS Books & Materials	304,000.00	471,000.00	Used LY Sept - Dec	460,000.00	Projected year end less 2% due to better usage control
AAWS Lit Distrib. & Supplies					
Distribution-Packing Supplies	35.53	53.30		50.00	
H&I Lit Stamps	910.81	1,366.22		1,200.00	
Shipping & Freight	3,153.87	4,730.81		3,000.00	
Stamp Pad & Ink	281.46	422.19		450.00	
Total AAWS Lit Distrib. & Supplies	4,381.67	6,572.51		4,700.00	
Total AAWS	308,381.67	477,572.51		464,700.00	
Grapevine & La Vina					
1 Grapevine subscriptions	38,148.25	56,514.50	Used LY Sept - Dec	56,600.00	
2 LaVina subscriptions	6,249.25	10,368.75	Used LY Sept - Dec	10,400.00	
3 GV/LV subscription freight	2,700.00	4,500.00	Used LY Sept - Dec	4,500.00	
GV & LV other - books	25,702.52	36,502.52	Used LY Sept - Dec	20,000.00	Reducing GV/LV book selections for the use of more basic literature
Total Grapevine & La Vina	72,800.02	107,885.77		91,500.00	
Meeting Directories	487.17	730.76		750.00	
Storage Unit Rent Expense	3,024.00	4,032.00	336/mo	4,212.00	Oct 2025 Increase to 351/mo (change to 4212.00)
Total - Literature Expense	384,692.86	590,221.03		561,162.00	
Accounting					
Accountant Fees	725.00	725.00	One time	1,250.00	New Accountant
Taxes	100.00	100.00	One Time	100.00	
Total Accounting	825.00	825.00		1,350.00	Projected Actual Year End
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	29,325.98	29,325.98	One Time	32,075.20	
Bank Charges	49.50	200.00		600.00	Modernizing deposit procedures
Equipment, New					
Technology	0.00	0.00		400.00	New Equipment
Total Equipment, New	0.00	0.00		400.00	
Insurance	1,525.00	1,525.00	One Time	1,677.00	10% Increase
NorCal Committee					
Archives Rental	2,250.00	3,000.00	250/mo	3,000.00	
Meeting Room Rental	1,030.77	1,030.77	Only 1 hybrid per year	1,000.00	Estimate cost for 1 hybrid per year
NorCal - Lodging, meals, other	364.95	1,864.95	Used LY Sept - Dec	2,500.00	
NorCal - Travel Mileage & Tolls	701.30	3,701.30	Used LY Sept - Dec	4,000.00	
Software	0.00	0.00		1,040.00	Changes of Quickbooks/Software for Publisher
Translation/Interpretation	1,482.48	2,223.72		2,500.00	
Total NorCal Committee	5,829.50	11,820.74		14,040.00	
NorCal IVSS Program					
IVSS Supplies	10.14	25.00		800.00	Based on actual expense unrealized
IVSS Zoom exp	119.92	179.88	Used LY Sept - Dec	720.00	120.00 per year per facility
PO Box IVSS	784.00	884.00	Used LY Sept - Dec	1,358.00	Based on # of Facilities at 220.00 per year
IVSS Video Project	750.00	1,000.00	One More Payment on Video	500.00	Video Updates
Stamps IVSS	30.25	30.25	Used LY Sept - Dec	50.00	Postage Increase
Total NorCal IVSS Program	1,694.31	2,119.13		3,428.00	
Office Supplies					
Copy Paper	0.00	0.00		100.00	
Ink Cartridges	0.00	0.00		300.00	
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00		200.00	
Total Office Supplies	0.00	0.00		600.00	



2026 Budget Workbook (continued)

	Jan - Aug 25	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Rationale	2026 Proposed Budget	Budget Rationale
Postage					
Misc. Committee Shipping	122.75	184.13		200.00	
Post Office Box	478.00	478.00	One Time	485.00	
Premium Forwarding Service	0.00	0.00	Have Credit	600.00	
Stamps	219.00	219.00	Have Enough	225.00	
Total Postage	819.75	881.13		1,510.00	Projected year end
Printing Costs					
Envelopes	0.00	0.00		0.00	
20 Questions	282.97	282.97	Have Enough	300.00	
Check Printing	0.00	0.00		75.00	
Misc. Printing	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Newsletters	13,226.77	19,840.16		8,000.00	We will be communicating Digital Copy v Hard Copies
Pink Cans	0.00	4,000.00	In process of ordering	1,000.00	Rough cost for 250 Cans
Policy Manuals	262.20	7,762.20	Used LY Sept - Dec	8,000.00	
Recovery Cards, Yellow, Blue	131.10	131.10	Have Enough	150.00	
Total Printing Costs	14,168.04	32,016.43		17,525.00	
Virtual Meeting Expense	146.91	150.00		200.00	
Website Expense	0.00	250.00	Migrating Costs most will be in 2026	3,000.00	Migrate our Website to Wordpress
Total Expense	439,076.85	669,334.43		637,567.20	
Net Ordinary Income	773.75	-40,686.95		3,936.80	
Net Income	773.75	-40,686.95		3,936.80	



**NorCal H&I Committee
Financial Report
August, 2025**

<u>INCOME AND EXPENSE BREAKDOWN</u>			<u>CONTRIBUTIONS BY AREA</u>		
	<u>Aug 25</u>	<u>Jan - Aug 25</u>		<u>Aug 25</u>	<u>Jan - Aug 25</u>
Income			02, Del Norte	252.63	1,114.27
Area Contributions	52,260.84	444,552.04	03, Siskiyou	235.91	1,444.18
Processor Fees	-465.11	-4,701.44	04, Humboldt	364.45	3,081.68
Total Income	51,795.73	439,850.60	11/12, Modoc/Lassen	0.00	65.00
Literature Expense			140, Spanish North Int	258.00	1,775.94
AAWS	36,174.68	308,381.67	16, Shasta	1,095.24	12,203.24
Grapevine & La Vina	16,518.93	72,800.02	160, Spanish N Coast	0.00	921.30
Meeting Directories	124.03	618.27	161, Spanish (Area) Santa Rosa	0.00	489.00
Storage Unit Rent Expense	0.00	3,024.00	17, Tehama	95.23	609.14
Total Literature Expense	52,817.64	384,823.96	170, Spanish S Coast	301.50	695.92
Other Expense			18, Trinity	0.00	287.00
Accounting	0.00	825.00	180, Spanish Central Int	21.91	473.14
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	0.00	29,325.98	190, Spanish South Int	0.00	1,661.81
Bank Charges	49.50	49.50	21, Mendocino	261.45	2,305.64
Insurance	0.00	1,525.00	22, Sonoma	3,180.65	40,156.80
NorCal Committee	137.60	5,829.50	23, Lake	373.24	3,706.68
NorCal IVSS Program	119.92	1,694.31	31, Butte/Glenn	954.32	9,777.48
Postage	0.00	819.75	32, Plumas	0.00	234.25
Printing Costs	0.00	14,036.94	34, Placer	3,746.98	24,496.23
Virtual Meeting Expense	82.95	148.91	36, Sierra/Nevada	1,018.71	6,938.38
Total Other Expense	389.97	54,252.89	42, Sacramento/Yolo	2,699.83	28,826.31
Total Literature and Other Expense	53,207.61	439,076.85	43, El Dorado	712.49	6,322.48
Income Less Total Expense	(1,411.88)	773.75	44, Amador	190.10	2,023.75
Beginning Cash Balance	297,453.66	295,268.03	45, Sutter/Colusa/Yuba	400.28	3,877.86
Ending Cash Balance	295,041.78	295,041.78	51, Napa	1,044.74	7,299.11
			52, Contra Costa	3,328.65	31,504.26
			53, Alameda	7,952.98	47,115.65
			54, Solano	257.75	8,660.22
			61, Marin	1,587.30	31,849.28
			62, San Francisco	3,236.53	32,807.69
			65, San Mateo	2,367.54	23,793.67
			71, Santa Clara	2,849.09	28,638.25
			72, Monterey	422.29	6,338.16
			73, Santa Cruz	5,451.36	23,923.10
			74, San Benito	145.57	1,705.27
			81, Stanislaus	718.85	4,802.78
			82, San Joaquin	1,277.54	5,892.89
			83, Tuolumne	0.00	3,722.06
			84, Calaveras	65.55	1,315.67
			86, Merced	160.49	1,831.75
			91, Mariposa/Madera	671.56	2,573.12
			92, Fresno	3,052.31	18,443.66
			93, Tulare	1,817.71	6,504.70
			95, Kings	90.13	780.32
			Out of the Area Contribution	0.00	491.96
			Unidentified Contributor	0.00	150.99
			Total	52,260.84	444,552.04
Literature Expense % Total Expense	87.64%				
Value of Lit on Hand =	11,220.64				

**Recommended Cash on Hand = Prior year average monthly expense x 6. 2024 average monthly expense was \$63,564.60



PINK CANS

The Pink Cans are passed at meetings in Northern CA to provide funds which enable this committee to carry our message. If your meeting doesn't have a Pink Can, please contact the Literature Chair at www.handinorcal.org (or your local Area Chair) to get one.

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You can also now make your group's contribution by credit or debit card directly on our website at www.handinorcal.org/contribute; you will receive an immediate email receipt documenting the transaction.



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