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

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2026-2027

October 25, 2026
January 24, 2027
April 25, 2027
July 25, 2027

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.

Newsletter Delivery Update

As noted previously, this newsletter is now available digitally through our website or by email, and printed copies are only mailed to those who have confirmed they wish to continue receiving a hard copy. If you prefer to switch to electronic delivery and no longer receive a printed copy, contact the Chair at chairnorcalhandi@gmail.com to update your preference. We will continue to offer printed copies to those who need or wish to receive them.

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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** | **October 2026**

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

October 25, 2026
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 serving as your NorCal Committee Chair for the past year. Over that time, I've had the opportunity to get to know so many of you better and have built some wonderful friendships along the way. I also look forward to connecting with those I may not have had the chance to meet one-on-one yet.

What continues to stand out to me is how much H&I work happens every day, often without much recognition. It is through your willingness to show up, take commitments, attend meetings, serve on committees, and carry the message that we are able to reach the alcoholics being served by the Northern California Hospitals & Institutions Committee. I am grateful to be a part of that with all of you.

Since our last Committee Meeting, I have continued working with several of our committees and Ad Hoc groups. I had the opportunity to participate in the Finance Committee's budget proposal meeting, and we will review the proposed 2027 budget at our October meeting. A copy is included in this newsletter, and I encourage you to take some time to review it. A lot of work has gone into preparing a balanced budget while continuing to support the work of H&I.

The Policy Committee has also been busy. We have several proposed updates that have accumulated since our last policy review, and while the first reading will not take place until January, I think you will see a lot of value in the work that has gone into clarifying and updating our policies. I appreciate everyone who has taken the time to look closely at these items and help make sure our policies continue to serve the Committee well.

I have also continued participating in the Website Ad Hoc Committee as we work toward moving our website to a new platform. We have made some good progress, and I am hopeful that I will be able to share more with you at our October meeting as we look toward the next steps.

This month, we also take a moment to remember two longtime members of our H&I community, H.E. N. and Carl P. Their decades of service, leadership, friendship, and willingness to bring others into H&I have left a lasting impact throughout Northern California. As you read the tribute to them in this newsletter, I hope we can all be reminded of the importance of simply showing up, carrying the message, and helping the next person find their way into service. We are grateful for the legacy they leave behind and for the many lives they touched along the way.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Chair. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me and, more importantly, for the opportunity to serve alongside all of you.

In gratitude,

Joe N
NorCal Committee Chair

Letter of Gratitude for H&I
In Memoriam
Honoring H.E. N. and Carl P.

In the spirit of gratitude for H&I and the many people who have dedicated their lives to carrying the message, this month we are doing something a little different with our Gratitude in H&I section. With great sadness, we honor the lives and service of H.E. N. and Carl P., two deeply dedicated members of our H&I community who recently passed.

For decades, H.E. and Carl carried the message of Alcoholics Anonymous into institutions and contributed countless hours of service at both the Area and NorCal levels. Through their leadership, mentorship, friendship, and willingness to bring others into service, they touched countless lives and helped strengthen the H&I community throughout Northern California.

Area 53 shared the news of their passing and described H.E. and Carl as two deeply dedicated volunteers whose decades of service to H&I touched countless lives. Through their commitment, hard work, and leadership—both at the Area level and on the NorCal H&I Committee—they helped carry the message to countless alcoholics and inspired and welcomed many others into H&I service. Area 53 also shared that their recent picnic provided an opportunity for members to honor H.E. and Carl, share memories, and express gratitude for the deep legacy of service they leave within the H&I community.

We also received the following message directly from our San Quentin MIC regarding Carl:
It is with a sad heart that I share the news of Carl P.'s unexpected transition two weeks ago from a medical complication. He was instrumental with taking the message of AA inside and was the coordinator who oversaw my Gate Clearance back in 2015 when I first got involved. He was a mentor, and very kind and gentle soul who will be missed. In all due respect to his life, memory and his loved ones, and those who went inside with him, may God rest and comfort his soul.

We reached out to a few H&I members who knew H.E. and Carl well and asked them to share a few words about their service, their friendship, and the impact they had on those around them.

From Lorraine M.
When I called my friend Gary H., the former H&I Historian, to tell him that H.E. had passed his response was “H.E. was the salt of the earth”. I had to look up the definition of that saying and it means ‘a good, honest, reliable and humble person’ and I agree that describes H.E.

As a Brown Card holder he regularly went to San Quentin as well as many other institutions. Over the years he served as the H&I Rep for the Fremont Fellowship, participated in the committees of the annual H&I Conferences and helped with Archives. He served the committee as the NCCAA Conference Coordinator and for years after his term was over, he continued to participate in the H&I panels. During the 12 years we were on the committee together there were several changes to the Policy and Procedures. During discussion of proposed changes, often at way too much length, it could be challenging to our serenity momentarily, but he lived the principles of AA and always supported the committee decisions.

I became aware of his going the extra lengths for H&I in 2007 when he would drive from Hayward to Blairsden, 250 miles each way, to bring Sam H. to the committee meetings. A year ago, a sponsee of mine moved from Placerville to Fremont and met H.E., her new Home Group H&I Representative. Through his encouragement, example, and guidance, she was inspired to become a member of H&I, taking on a regular hospital meeting commitment. H.E.’s example of humbly serving others has touched many lives and I will always be grateful for the time I spent in service with him.

From Maxie V.
H.E. migrated from Detroit in the late '80s and joined the Fremont Men's Stag Group of Alcoholics Anonymous. He was rock solid into sobriety from the very beginning, following every suggestion of his first sponsor, Carl J. He soon became an avid servant of NorCal H&I.

Whenever H.E. was present at a meeting, a smile would light up my face and my heart. When sharing, A.A.'s message was carried with dedication, humor and joy, invariably saying, “There's help and hope here.”

Visiting him in his last days will remain a precious memory of connected friendship, serenity and peace. Not one flicker of bitterness or fear, rather an ongoing expression of gratitude.

H.E. often said that he stood on the shoulders of A.A. Giants. In H.E. I have been blessed to witness a giant of humility, service and love. May his Detroit Lions and Tigers win championships to bring an extra smile to his heavenly face.

From Karen C.
Carl P.: I’ve served for many years with Carl in H&I and he was one of the kindest and most humble men I’ve known. One of the very first appointments I made as General Chair was asking Carl to serve as the Major Institution Coordinator for San Quentin, and even though he was initially nervous & unsure, he served with honor, responsibility, capability & integrity, later ‘graduating’ to serve as Major Institution Chair. Carl, Jeff & I were privileged to attend the National Corrections Conference in Maine one year and made a road trip from NY to Maine by car – we laughed most of the way, had some great seafood, had a few discussions about outside issues, and created memories that will live with me always.
H.E.: H.E. was one of the first people I got to know on the NorCal H&I committee. Back in 2010 I was an Area Co-Chair for San Francisco, A62 and new to the whole NorCal process. H.E. took me under his wing and encouraged me to participate in other aspects of our committee; he was welcoming, helpful and kind, & I’m forever grateful for his support & encouragement. And when I moved from SF to A-53, there was H.E., attending the Area meetings as one of the elder statesmen. H.E. held many positions of responsibility on both the NorCal and local levels for H&I and was a devoted trusted servant of our committee.

From Bob W.
Early in my sobriety I was told that service would keep me sober. I was also told that H&I service was the best insurance one could buy. So, I did. Two champions of H&I service died this month. H.E. N., who was a constant presence at conferences and facilities, and Carl P., my sponsor and a long time H&I committee member. H.E. was one of “the H&I guys” when I got started in service back in the mid 90’s. H.E. actually took me to my first H&I commitment. Scared the heck out of me, but I kept coming back. In 2003 my wife only agreed to San Quentin H&I service if I went with H.E.-he was a BIG guy!

But Carl is the real reason I’m writing this. I struggle with tears when I think of him. He was a friend, a mentor, a soundboard, my sponsor. We had coffee every week. We talked regularly, about H&I, about Alcoholics Anonymous, politics, family, everything. You know, life. The stuff I didn’t know how to talk about before I learned it in Alcoholics Anonymous. He had a full life, starting as a Berkeley pool hall drunk, (after moving from Nebraska) got sober, and evolved to be a doting grandfather to two grandchildren and loving husband to Marcie. He was a great stepfather to Issac and his wife. He was a 30+ year member of the In Between Fellowship. Carl was a foot soldier in H&I service, carrying the message for many years. His first attempt at recovery was thru the Salvation Army. He continued in service up to the Northern CA committee level. He carried meetings to San Quentin for many years. The men at SQ celebrated his 49th sobriety anniversary earlier this year. He had a kind word for most, a quick retort for some, but compassion for all. He wasn’t perfect-none of us are. But we strive to grow and learn. That’s what we do in recovery. We learn who and what we really are, and strive to become what our higher power wants us to be. Carl did that. All the time. Both left too young. I will miss both of them.

H.E. and Carl leave behind more than memories. Their example of service helped bring new members into H&I, strengthened the work being done in facilities throughout Northern California, and demonstrated what long-term service can look like.

We are grateful for their lives, their service, the people they mentored, and the many people who were willing to walk through the doors because H.E. and Carl first showed them the way.
May their memory, friendship, and example of service continue to inspire us to carry the message.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

October 2026
From the Archives……

What's the Use of A.A. in Prison?

Warden Clinton Duffy is honored for his leadership in starting the first A.A. meetings at San Quentin State Prison. Although he was a great advocate for education and rehabilitation of the incarcerated, Warden Duffy was initially skeptical about the value of A.A. in prison. It's been said that his initial reaction to the idea of bringing A.A. into the prison was that it would be like giving a man swimming lessons on a sandy beach with no water.

With the meetings underway, there were similar reactions in the press. Marsh Maslin, a columnist for the San Francisco newspaper, the Call-Bulletin, made some disparaging remarks about San Quentin A.A. in his column, "***This is the Life!***". Ricardo M., the incarcerated alcoholic who is credited with initiating the request to bring AA in San Quentin, wrote a rebuttal to Mr. Maslin's comments which were published in the Call-Bulletin on Feb. 19, 1943:

"An able inmate of San Quentin who signs himself Ricardo- and gives his last name too, explains the functioning of Alcoholics Anonymous in the prison. It was a situation which puzzled us because we couldn't understand how an alcoholic could test his resistance to alcohol while confined in prison… Ricardo says that outside members of AA were doubtful about that too and reluctant at first to come over to the prison. But they changed their minds. He writes:

"When we hold our AA meetings over here men who have been confirmed drunkards for years suddenly became as newly-taught boys. Men who have been over every curve in the road come over here and talk to prisoners and their reluctance to visit us is changed to eager enthusiasm. When we talk about drinking because our wives have left us, or because we were misunderstood, they came back with a story that tops ours in every department. We can no longer alibi, no longer justify our selfish actions. So, we listen.

We learned that these men are not strangers to Skid Row. They tell us of searching through alleys for empty wine bottles to raise the price of a full morning bottle. They know the little tricks and the petty peccadilloes that clutter the back trail of the true alcoholic. They have slept in all night theaters flopped in 15 cent flap houses. They have panhandled on Skid Row to get that all essential first drink. They have sat at bars so shaky that the first drink could be taken only from a beer stein. They know the strange peace that exists in the shadowy land of make believe. So… to the point, we can't kid these men."

And Ricardo explains that after tackling their drinking problems with sober minds, and in the company of other drinkers, they leave prison finally with a better understanding of it and of themselves. Thank you very much, Ricardo M."

On Aug. 11, 1950, seven years after Ricardo M.'s rebuttal appeared in the Call-Bulletin, the following article was published in the San Quentin News by an unidentified author. Once again, attempting to illustrate the power of A.A. in prison:

"A great many times the question is asked, what good is an Alcoholics Anonymous club behind the walls of a prison? Two mythical cases should prove illuminating.

The first is an alcoholic (first timer or repeater) who is sentenced to a prison where as yet, no unit of A. A. has been established. Because he is an alcoholic, -he probably came to the prison because of a crime committed while drunk, or because of alcoholic thinking. He soon enters the routine of prison life with its day-to-day

sameness, his principal recreation amounting to swapping stories with other prison-bored inmates. Mostly, these stories recount past drinking bouts, parties, and dreamed-up accomplishments.

In this type, of merely existing, nothing happens to make the prisoner think about himself, a future honest life outside the walls, or anything else decent, clean and worthwhile. At no time does it occur to the prisoner that he might be an alcoholic—therefore a definitely sick person.

Finally, after years, months, weeks and days of doing time, his day of release nears. Having thought and talked of nothing else for so long, the first stop is usually a tavern, the second- an upstairs back room, the third a jail- and the cycle will stop with his return to prison again with a longer sentence. The ultimate fate of the first case can be reliably predicted.

The second case is also an alcoholic, with this difference; He is sentenced to serve his time in a prison where an enlightened administration has encouraged the work of Alcoholics Anonymous. Inevitably, this prisoner will come into contact with an inmate, member of the A. A group. He immediately discovers that he isn't the only one in prison with troubles caused either through drinking, or because of drinking. Conversation reveals that the entire A. A. group is concerned about each other and all alcoholics whomever or wherever they may be. Lies are discouraged by examples of truthful admissions of faults and honest daily living.

This second prisoner soon learns there are- ways- of solving problems besides drinking them down. The most startling discovery of all is when he learns that alcohol isn't essential to a pleasant and enjoyable life. He soon learns that for the first time in many, many years,

- he has an inner sense of peace and well-being not thought possible before his introduction to the 12 steps of the A. A. recovery program. Before long he begins to look forward to release with new hope and outlook. When his day for release comes he knows that as long as he faces each day with honesty, sincerity, and humbleness, he has thousands of friends who care not a whit about his past but only what he intends to do with his present arid future.

Then, indeed, the prison has released a man in better condition than when he was received as another of society's failures."

Julio B.
Archives Chair

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.

◊ H&I Conference Chair

◊ H&I Liaison to CNIA

Regional Chairs

Acts in support capacity to Area Chairs within the region…

Region 01 - Far North Coastal – OPEN
Region 20 – Northern Coastal - OPEN
Region 70 – Southern Coastal – OPEN
Region 10 - Far North Interior – OPEN
Region 50 - East Bay – OPEN
Region 90 - Far Southern 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…

ASP Avenal – OPEN
SCC Jamestown – OPEN
FCI Herlong (HER) – OPEN
SQ San Quentin – OPEN
USP Atwater (ATW)-OPEN
FCI Mendota (MEN) – OPEN
SVSP Soledad – 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:

E-mail the publisher using the "Contact Us" selection on the Menu on the left of the website home page.

Write the Northern California Hospital & Institution Committee: P.O. Box 192490, San Francisco CA 94119

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

NORCAL COMMITTEE AGENDA – October 25, 2026

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

LIAISON & SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. VATF: Jeff L	4. SoCal H&I Liaison: James C
2. H&I Liaison to CNCA: James C	5. Guest Reports
3. H&I Liaison to CNIA: OPEN	6.

BREAK
COMMITTEE BUSINESS SCHEDULE

- **Proposed 2027 Budget** – Review, discuss, and vote on the proposed 2027 NorCal H&I budget.
- **Website Ad Hoc Committee Update** – Receive an update on the website migration, review progress and recommendations, and discuss next steps.
- **Northern California All-Services Inventory** – Discuss H&I participation in the proposed All-Services Inventory, including whether the Committee supports moving forward, identifying 1–2 representatives for the planning committee, and submitting inventory questions/concerns.

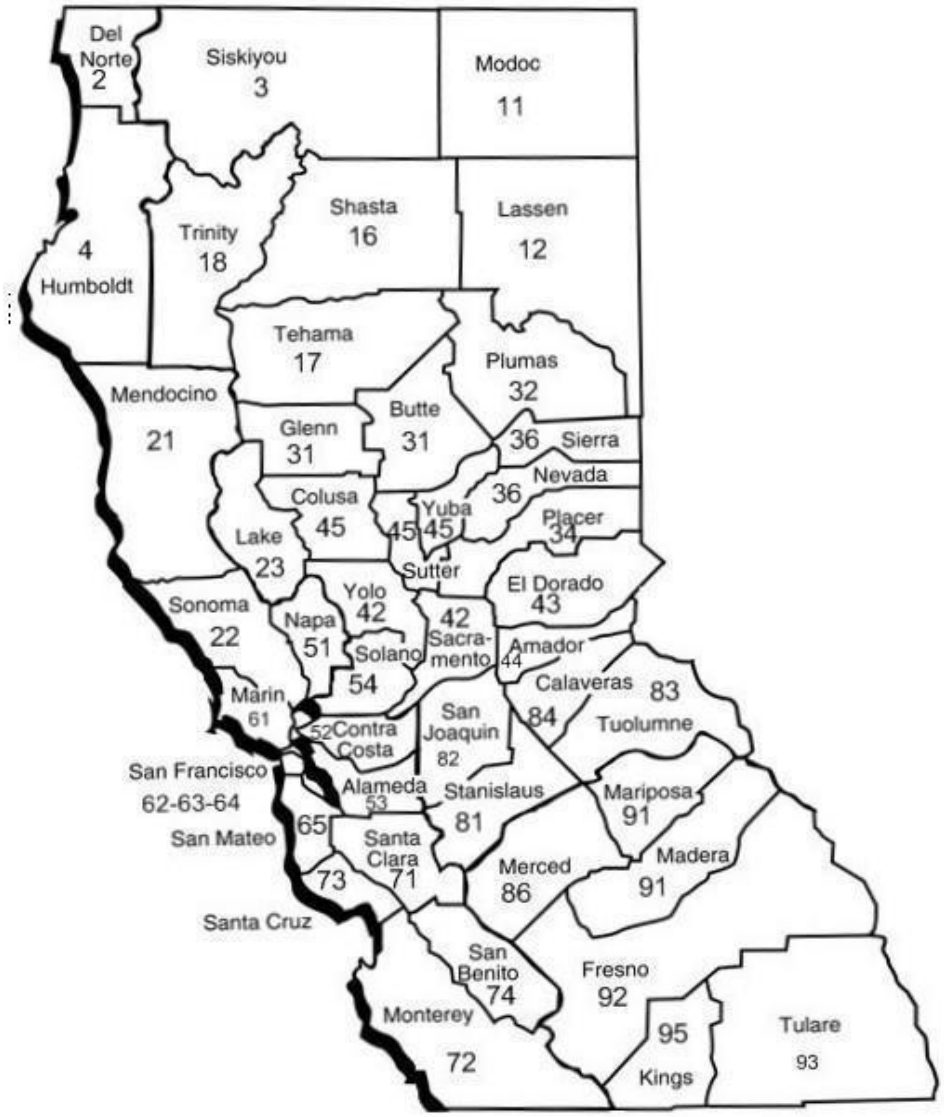
DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM THE GENERAL CHAIR

- **Building Participation & Rebuilding Panels** – Share what has worked in other Areas to build sustained H&I participation, develop new trusted servants, and rebuild facility relationships when an H&I panel has been lost.
- **H&I Meeting Two-Member Requirement** – Discuss last-minute situations when a second volunteer or speaker is unable to attend and clarify current policy.

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

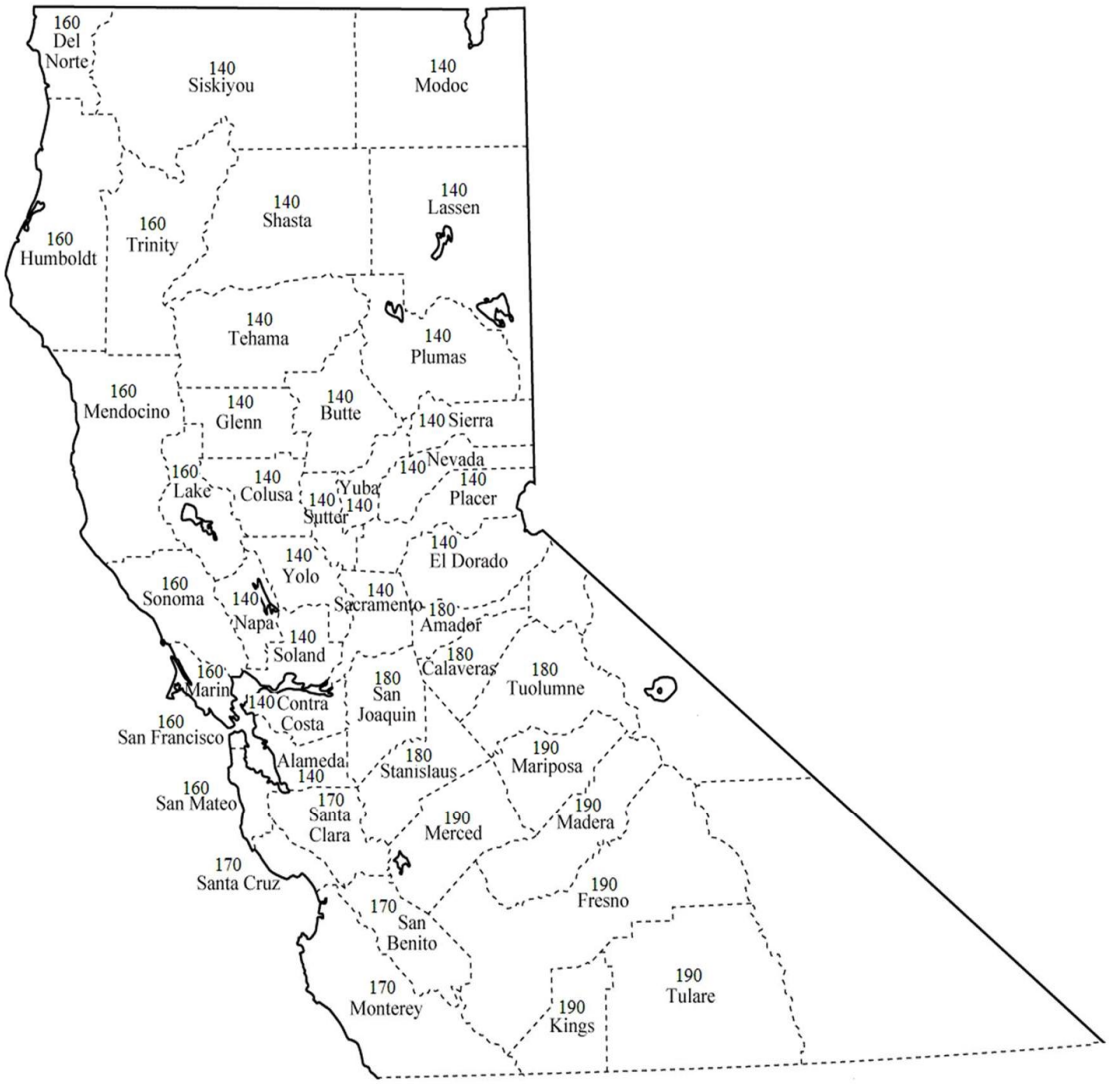
Northern California Hospital and Institution Committee Regions and Areas



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: 021, 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 24th 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 26, 2026

Opening: Joe N opened the meeting at 11:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Also verified the meeting was being recorded (for the minutes) and that simultaneous translation is available and in use. You also have the option to turn on closed captions using the tools on Zoom.

Purpose Statement: Penny C read the H&I Purpose Statement and Leigh Ann M read the short form of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Zoom:		
Karen B	*Nancy H*	*Renee P*
James C	*Don H*	*Joe N*
Cosme C	*Jude H*	*Jeremiah P*
Penny C	*Derek J*	*Fidel P*
Karen C	*Andrew K*	*Joyce R*
Annetta D	*Jeff L*	*Dave R*
Erica D	*Omar L*	*Miki S*
Lynn D	*Gareth M*	*Ashley S*
Mark F	*Leigh Ann M*	*Amy S*
Bob F	*Peter M*	*Cecilia S*
Victoria F	*Timothy L*	*Louie T*
Spencer G	*Marcelo N*	*Melody T*
Jessica H	*Claudia N*	*Joy V*
Bill H	*Marian P*	*Bruce W*
		Interpreter: Manuel G

Attendance at Committee Meetings:

2025	**2026**
01/26: 38 (6 in person)	01/25: 42 (Zoom)
04/27: 39 (4 in person)	04/26: 22 in person / 16 Zoom
07/27: 28 (5 in person)	**07/26: 42 (Zoom)**
10/26: 28 (0 in person)	

Joe N shared voter eligibility: Area Chairs, Regional Chairs, NorCal Committee Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer, Literature Chair, Pink Can Coordinator, Grapevine Chair, Policy Chair, Public Information Chair, Audio-Media Chair, Archives Chair, NCCAA Conference Coordinator, Publisher, Website Chair, Spanish Communications Chair, Major Institutions Chair and Coordinators, IVSS Chair and Coordinators, Finance Committee Chair.

The above committee members are invited to comment on any new and unfinished business.

Open Forum is available for anyone present to make comments, ask questions or bring up a topic.

AGENDA (preliminary draft published in July 2026 newsletter): Committee members are asked to request agenda topics in writing prior to the meeting so we can add it to the published new business agenda. A committee member may also bring up a new topic in the open forum discussion portion of the meeting, but this will likely delay consideration and action.

- Review and approve agenda published in 2026 newsletter (as revised):
  - Motion to approve: Miki S
  - 2nd: Karen B
  - Approved= 100% (2 abstain)
- Review and approve April 2026 minutes published in July 2026 newsletter:
  - Motion to approve: Miki S
  - 2nd: Melody T
  - Approved = 100% (4 abstain)

OFFICER REPORTS

General Chair Joe N

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the July 2026 committee meeting. I can't believe it's already been 3 months since our last committee meeting. Time does certainly fly. First, I want to thank, again, Area 23 for hosting our April committee Meeting as a hybrid meeting. It was great to see many of you in person. It was a great day, and I appreciate all the hard work that went into it, making it a success for everyone.

I learned that another Area has expressed interest in hosting our next hybrid meeting. Our current policy and procedures manual does allow for the possibility of one hybrid meeting each year but given the positive feedback we received and the growing interest from areas wanting to host, I do plan on talking with the Policy and Procedure Committee to review that language and considering giving the committee greater flexibility should this interest continue. In the past, attendance at hybrid meetings were not very strong, but it does seem to be changing, and I think worth revisiting.

Thank you for all for joining us virtually today. We have a full agenda, with a lot of reports to hear, and I hope many of you will participate in today's discussion topics. I intentionally select topics that areas have reached out to me about, because I believe they do present a great opportunity for us to learn from one another, and share best practices across Northern California.

Another highlight since our last meeting was the opportunity Joyce and I had to attend the Spanish regional meeting. We were grateful for the invitation and appreciated the chance to learn more about our Spanish regions, how they conduct business, and how to hear firsthand about both their successes and their challenges. Joyce will share more during her Co-Chair report, but I do want to say that we both left feeling encouraged. There is a genuine desire to strengthen the relationship between our English areas and our Spanish regions. It also became clear that many of the challenges we've experienced over the years have simply been the result of miscommunication. The good news is that communication is something that we can improve on, and I'm excited about the progress that we're already seeing. I also appreciate everything Martin is doing as our Spanish Communications Chair to help strengthen those connections. I'd like to spend just a few minutes now talking about several improvements that we've been working on regarding our newsletter and committee communications.

Over the past few months, I've been working with Joyce, Lynn, and Jude to simplify our newsletter process while also protecting the anonymity of our trusted servants. Beginning with this July newsletter, there will be only one version of the newsletter. It will be a redacted version, meaning that last names will no longer be included. This allows us to distribute the newsletter more freely while continuing to protect everyone's anonymity.

You will notice another improvement beginning in the October newsletter. As we transition to a timelier reporting process, the October newsletter will include the July business meeting minutes, along with both July and October Area, Regional, Major Institution, and IVSS Coordinator reports. To make this possible, the Recording Secretary will request the October reports by the end of September, so they can be included in the newsletter. October will be our one-time transition issue. Beginning with the January newsletter, each quarterly newsletter will include the most current Area, Regional and Major Institution reports, along with IVSS

coordinators, submitted for that reporting period, making the information timelier and more relevant to our members.

Since these reports are informational and are not part of the approved minutes, there's no reason to delay sharing them. This is another step toward our goal of getting information into the hands of our members more quickly. If you have any questions about this change, we'll be happy to discuss them during the Publisher's report.

Another improvement is that the committee roster will no longer be published in the newsletter. Instead, all current committee members now have access to a view-only roster that updates automatically. Simply save the link, and you'll always have the most current version. And as a reminder, the roster is confidential and should only be shared with current committee members. If you have not received the link already and are a committee member, please reach out to Jude or I, and we'll make sure you get it.

Finally, we're also working on getting information to you faster by distributing unapproved draft minutes within a couple of weeks after each committee meeting. They'll still clearly state that they are unapproved and will continue to appear in the quarterly newsletter, but this allows you to review them sooner and share important information with your Areas while it's still current.

These changes all support the same goals: better communication, more timely information, less duplication of effort, and making it easier for our trusted servants to stay informed. Before I close, I want to thank each of you for your continued service, not only to the Committee, but to the alcoholics we ultimately serve. The work being done in every area across Northern California truly does make a difference.

Finally, if there are discussion topics you'd like us to consider for future Committee meetings, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. These discussions are intended to be a resource for all of us, a place to share ideas, ask questions, work through challenges, and learn from one another. The more we participate, the stronger our committee becomes. Thank you all again for joining us today. I'm looking forward to a productive committee meeting.

General Co-Chair Joyce R

Since our last meeting, I've had the privilege of participating in several different meetings, learning a bit more about the inner workings of our committee. 3 Unapproved July 2026 Minutes

It is mind-blowing to see firsthand the amount of work that each member of this committee puts in, and the collaboration behind the scenes to bring to this meeting ideas to streamline efforts and provide timely information for our committee.

It was enlightening to attend the Spanish Region's meeting last week with Joe. Thank you, Martin, for translating. Even with the language barrier, it was obvious the heart for service our Spanish regions have.

I have been continuing to work on connecting the Spanish Regions with the respective English-speaking Areas and Major Institution coordinators to ensure that the Spanish Region meetings are added to their Form 2s, and they receive literature and La Viñas.

I want to extend a special thank you to Ron from Area 92, Michelle from Area 71, who is already providing Region 170 with literature, but will be connecting with them to make sure they get La Viñas also; and Ashley from Area 42, who is helping with that also; Jeff L, who's connecting the Major Institution coordinators; Martin, the Spanish Communications Chair; and Bob, our Grapevine Chair.

Together, we've been able to update Form 2s and provide literature for Region 190, Region 170, and Region 140 is in process.

I want to take a minute and say we are aware that there are several Areas and Major Institutions out there that have Spanish-speaking volunteers outside of the Spanish regions, and they support them with literature and include their meetings and their Form 2s. Your efforts are recognized and appreciated also.

At the Spanish Region Meeting, we also learned that Region 180 has volunteers available who would like to go into county jails and have not been active since COVID. I'll be reaching out to Melody next week so we can coordinate with the areas to get these valuable volunteers into service.

Once they are holding meetings again, we'll ensure that they also have literature available. Region 180, just an apology. I left last week's meeting without getting the name and address of the gentleman requesting pink return envelopes. I'm sending some to Jesus, the Region 180 Chair. In the coming months, I'll work with Martin to connect with Region 160.

Treasurer Joyce R

We ended June in neutral financial position, and ended the month with a positive $4,445.88, Our year-to-date number is a negative $56,929.19. This leaves us $13,216.44 into our recommended 6-month prudent reserve cash on hand.

In comparison to last year, we are 6.9% ahead of last year on contributions, but we're 24% above last year on literature expenses. While our overall expenses is 3.4% lower, it still leaves us 20.6% above last year in overall expense.

We have seen this trend for the first half of the year fluctuating minimally. Therefore, it's imperative that our Area Chairs review their literature orders along with the cost per meeting outlined on the literature recap sent out monthly with the financial report. We hope to see our cost per meeting around $25 per meeting. It's encouraging that we are seeing Areas which had a very low cost per meeting raising their numbers, reflecting literature being brought into meetings.

However, that requires the Areas who have had a higher cost per meeting to lower their purchases. Ways this can be done is by ensuring that the basic literature is what is being used in short-term facilities, checking with facilities to see if literature taken by residents is left behind and can be reused, and ordering only what your Area needs for a couple of months, not stockpiling literature. These are a few examples.

Area and Regional Chairs: If you have other ideas of how we can lower our literature costs, please share them with me via email so I can include them in my monthly reports to share with other areas.

In the next couple of months, the Finance Committee will be meeting to prepare a budget to bring to our Committee Meeting in October. It's important that we have the most accurate numbers available. Please take a moment to confirm that your Grapevine and La Viña subscription numbers needed are up to date and going to the right person.

Bob F will talk more about this in his report, but I wanted to take a moment and encourage all to communicate regularly with Bob any changes to your literature person, or number of magazines needed to ensure accuracy.

Also, please make sure to return calls to any member of this Committee that reaches out. I assure you, they need information, and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

It's also important to keep our Registrar up to date with any area chair changes. The Registrar needs your full name, phone number, address, and email addresses. This comes into play in my role at the beginning of each year when I send out the 5% checks. This year, right after I mailed all the checks, I received several emails regarding changes of address which weren't sent in. Before I send checks out in 2027, I will be sending an email asking Area Chairs to respond with a confirmation of their name and address before sending checks.

Thank you to all the Area Chairs. This year we've had only two Area Chairs who have not cashed or returned their checks, so thank you very much for taking care of that.

Please encourage all the groups in your area to pass a pink can and have a few on hand if a group needs one. Please encourage treasurers to send the money in on a regular basis, as this helps tremendously on making needed adjustments.

Please also share a financial report with your Area volunteers. Having them up to date on our financial position ensures that our fellowship will always have accurate information. The treasurer email is listed on the financial report. Please encourage any group who have any questions to reach out at any time.

If any of you would like to have a supply of pink return envelopes for sending contributions in, please send me an email with the name and address of where to send these. I just wanted to mention in closing that I am using the Treasurer email treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com for both of my service positions on this committee, so don't be surprised if you see the Treasurer email cc'd in an email that doesn't pertain to finance. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

April, May & June 2026 Finance Statement(s) Approval (in July newsletter)

- Joe N posted poll
- Approved = 100% (4 abstain)

Recording Secretary Lynn D

Thank you to everyone for sending in reports. Reminder: you will see requests for reports sooner – look for an email in early September.

Major Institutions Chair Jeff L

I just want to start first by saying that I've been a member of this committee since 2008 and I've never seen this committee so strong as it is right now, and it's really an honor to serve with you guys. Thank you very much.

I've been reaching out to the institutions that are without Coordinators without much luck. In some cases, that's what caused the last Coordinator to leave. I'll continue to reach out, it's kind of like whack-a-mole. You know, when I first took this position over, we filled a couple institutions quickly, and now they're kind of dropping off again.

I also visited an H&I workshop in Area 54. Jennifer and her team did a great job drumming up some new volunteers. They set up tables to assist with filling out clearance applications. They basically just had a really solid program running.

I'd like to thank Monte S for his years of service at Avenal State Prison. His work is taking him on the road more, so he will be stepping down. Bill H has graciously offered to cover for him until we find somebody.

SATF is having their first annual speaker jam. Dates are August 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. If you're interested, please reach out to Louie T, our new coordinator there. The one-day speaker jam goes across 8 yards, where the AA groups meet.

CTF Soledad held their 10th year anniversary conference. They've been going strong with 240 inside members, as well as 40 from the outside. They really do a great job and are kind of a model for how we can expand this type of event across major institutions in our state.

We held a two-day conference at CHCF Stockton May 2nd and 3rd. It was a major success. I also found a Coordinator for IVSS.

I'd like to thank Nicole L and Rachel S for all their work. They've been involved in the Soledad Conference for years and bring a lot of experience organizing these events wherever they go. It looks like we're on schedule to do another one October 24th, so if anybody's interested, please reach out to me or Melody, and one of us will get you in touch with them.

The Spanish groups tried to hold an event at San Quentin, and after much back and forth, they were denied. I cannot exactly say why they were denied. Our relationship with the institution isn't like it once was. The new administration that isn't as warm and friendly as previous ones have been. However, some requests made by the group were not only against the institution's rules, but against our committee rules. So, at the risk of being redundant, I feel like we need to set up some guidelines moving forward for this type of event. I plan to bring that up with the Policy Committee.

Overall, these events are kind of my thing. I wanted to get them going everywhere after attending the Soledad conference. But without AA meetings going into an institution, you can't really have an event.

I see we have a Humboldt County Chair here, Monterey and Area 72 and 73 Chairs here. We need coordinators for Pelican Bay in Crescent City; Salinas Valley; Jamestown; New Folsom; and now Avenal. It's difficult to fill a coordinator position when you don't know people from the area. I really would appreciate any leads.

Please make announcements at your meetings. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

IVSS Chair Karen C

The IVSS Visiting Sponsorship Service is the H&I program to provide outside one-on-one sponsorship to confined alcoholics, and that's primarily those in state prisons. We're currently serving 8 prisons in Northern California, and we do serve as the model for providing sponsorship across the country.

As of the end of June, we have 266 inside members who have applied, and 226 of them now have sponsors. That's up almost 60% from this time last year. So, thanks so much to Coordinators, for your continued efforts, and for the progress that you've made.

As Jeff said, as the result of the speaker jam that he and Melody brought into CHCF in May, we're bringing on California Healthcare Facility as our ninth facility. We're also actively looking for a Coordinator for Pleasant Valley State Prison in Coalinga. We've gotten requests from inside members there. I had gotten a few suggestions, but we haven't moved forward on getting a Coordinator.

The fact is that we could probably open up this service at every Northern California prison if we could only find volunteers to coordinate our efforts.

I had a very interesting inquiry from a County Juvenile Detention Facility in Area 45. I see Jessica is here. They were specifically requesting sponsorship. I am a huge fan of our services in Juvie, because the sooner we can carry the message of AA to those people, the better the chances our young alcoholics have of a sober life. I have not heard back from our potential volunteer yet but will report next time if we're able to get that off the ground. Thank you to Jessica and Nancy for bringing that to us.

Just a quick note, at Central California Women's Facility, Leigh Ann has found a bilingual volunteer who is willing to serve as her Assistant Coordinator in overseeing Spanish language matches. They're hoping to be able to recruit several Spanish-speaking volunteers from the Spanish AA meetings there, and then we'll get out the brochures in Spanish to our potential sponsees on the inside sometime in the next few months. So again, anything that we can do to better integrate the Spanish-speaking community into our efforts is our goal.

The sponsorship service is really such an exciting evolution of our H&I activities. I encourage anyone who thinks they might be interested in participating to read the position descriptions (the coordinator position and IVSS volunteer position) in our policy manual.

There are currently at least 40 men on the inside who have been patiently waiting for a sponsor.

And remember, now outside members can sponsor an inside member electronically from anywhere. We could be reaching so many more alcoholics if we just had the volunteers. More information about IVSS: https://www.handinorcal.org/volunteer-prisons

Finance Committee Chair Karen C I assumed the Chair position in May after the last Finance Committee Chair resigned.

Joyce and I have been working together on monitoring the accounts, reviewing monthly Treasury reports and the analysis, which have always been flawless from Joyce. I only want to re-emphasize what she says every time: the importance of Area Chairs reviewing and understanding the monthly literature by area recap report, as it is undoubtedly the single most important tool we have for managing our cash flow.

It's time to begin preparing the 2027 budget to present at the next meeting in October. I will be reaching out to Committee Chairs about how you might anticipate changes in the next year in terms of expenses that could be incurred by your committee.

Feel free to contact me via website if you have any comments or information that you would like to offer in terms of preparing the budget.

NCCAA Conference Coordinator & NCCAA Liaison Karen B

The NCCAA Conference will be on October 9th, 10th, and 11th in Fresno at the Doubletree. Registration is available on the NCCAA Website, including how to be of Service to NCCAA. I will attend the NCCAA Steering Committee Meeting later today with new Chairperson James W of Manteca. We will be approving the appointed officers, Postal Secretary, Interior Secretary, Archivist, and Webmaster.

Things that may be discussed at the steering committee are possibly holding a Northern California AA inventory at a future NCCAA conference, and developing sliding scale pricing for conferences held at different venues (it's less expensive to host a conference in Fresno than in San Jose for example). The next NCCAA steering committee after this is October 10th at 8 a.m. at the Fresno conference. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Literature Chair Peter M

I've been ordering and processing literature for all H&I Areas within our Committee. When literature is requested that we have in storage, I send that out instead of ordering it, so I'm whittling down the inventory in our storage locker, which is now located in Concord. Yesterday I received a box of our current newsletter, so if anybody wants a hard copy, I can send it to you.

I did receive a request from someone who was looking for 5 copies of the AA book, Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers, and found it's not on our literature order form. I spoke to Kelly, and we thought this book was reserved for Major Institutions, but this area is looking just for 5 copies, so maybe I could obtain permission from this Committee to send this one particular Area just 5 copies of this book. [Joe: we can discuss offline].

I've been getting questions about the 5th edition of AA Big Book – which is due to be published at the end of 2026 or beginning of 2027.

Pink Can Coordinator Peter M

Currently, we have 123 pink cans on hand. When we met in person in April, Area 23 folks took almost 50 pink cans. Last year when we got down to 50 pink cans, we ordered 250 cans. Maybe toward the end of the year, we should think about ordering more.

We also had 73 lid stickers for old cans that didn't have the NorCal H&I website address. It turns out those lid stickers have a shelf life - they no longer stick on the can, so are now worthless. I haven't received requests for lid stickers, so there are no plans to order more from the printer.

I look forward to helping the new Pink Can Coordinator with ordering cans and stickers from the printer. I've been the coordinator for 7 years, and it's time to move on.

Policy Chair Penny C

As of now, it will be January before I present ideas for new revisions to NorCal H&I policy manuals. In the meantime, if you have ideas or concerns about the policy, please email me at penelopestew60@gmail.com Our team will be getting together soon to start going through proposed changes. Our first vote will take place at our January meeting in 2027. The second and final vote will be in April, and policy manuals will be updated after that.

Audio Media Chair Jeremiah P

I'm happy to be here. That's my report!

Archivist/Historian Chair Julio B (not present) [Joe N]:

Julio asked me to report that he's sorry to miss today's meeting - yesterday was his daughter's wedding, so he's still busy with family and friends. Great excuse for him, I know.

From the archives of the July issue of the newsletter features the text of a 1958 account of the first AA meetings in Folsom Prison. The article mentions the help of a San Quentin inmate who was transferred to Folsom Prison to help organize an AA group. The unnamed inmate they referred to was Ricardo M, who played a key role in starting the first meetings at San Quentin.

Public Information Chair Melody T

Activity has been quiet over the past few months, aside from getting out the News Brief. Although many groups, intergroups, and districts are holding picnics and other events, I have not yet been contacted for display materials or presentations. Remember, this position is available to help with things to display on a table at those events.

Area H&I committees are encouraged to respectfully request tables at local events and to maintain an H&I liaison presence at district and intergroup meetings. These efforts can increase awareness of H&I service and volunteer opportunities and help with communication.

Please continue submitting Area meeting schedules, informational pieces, and online outreach links so a shared catalog can be created. This information will help prospective volunteers learn how to contact local committees. It's amazing how many Areas don't have a public way to get in touch.

I'm preparing for the NCCAA conference in Fresno, where we will have a table, hopefully with local Fresno H&I participation. This is a strong opportunity to share information about H&I and local volunteer needs. Fresno – and surrounding counties – can send along flyers and/or other promotional materials to me at info.norcalhandi@gmail.com .

I'm also seeking panel speakers, especially those with experience in correctional or treatment facilities, and those who first encountered AA through H&I meetings in a facility. Please contact me if you are interested in speaking. There are a couple of volunteers who put their name in the bucket for this time from the spring conference, so we're on a roll.

Since the newsletter is going to be on a different schedule, the Joe and I will look at the News Brief schedule or see if it's even going to be necessary going forward. Joe and I will discuss offline.

Grapevine Chair Bob F

For newer folks. the Grapevine Chair manages subscriptions for the monthly Grapevine and La Viña, whereas the Literature Chair provides the Grapevine books and back issues of the magazine.

With the Grapevine, we deviate from the literature policy in that it's often more effective or may be required to directly ship to Major Institutions or County Jails than to a Literature or Area Chair. It's imperative that we keep apprised of changes to local committees, Major Institutions chairs, and institution recipients, such as CRMs, chaplains, correction officers, etc.

This will be a recurring theme, so I'm going to say it several times: Please notify me of any personnel or address changes. It would be great if everyone confirm their Areas and Institutions for proper deliveries and addresses. We are still encountering position and address changes that haven't been passed along. This results in delayed, stockpiled, or abandoned deliveries.

If you're not sure who's receiving, or quantities for a given Institution or Area, please reach out to me to verify or update. Due to the variety of recipients we have, there is no reconciliation to any roster or other list; it's all what I maintain from the Grapevine.

Thank you to everyone who recently provided updates. We've gotten a lot of cleanup and clarification regarding La Viña, due to assistance provided by Joyce. Fire and CCC camps remain a mystery for the most part, so any assistance from local folks would be appreciated.

In the coming weeks, we'll be reaching out to all Major Institution Chairs and Area Chairs to confirm current recipients and subscription levels. Please discuss locally so we can move through the process as effectively as possible. There's always a lag on changes we submit being reflected in the actual deliveries. Depending on timing, that can be fairly substantial.

Despite a lot of changes, current Grapevine subscription levels have been fairly static over the last couple years. We are currently at 2,584 Grapevines, which are monthly. La Viñas are bimonthly, and we currently have 992 subscriptions.

With Joyce's help, we moved most La Viña subscriptions to the Areas, reduced by approximately 300. Compared to a pre-pandemic high watermark, Grapevine is down about 17%, and La Viña about 25%. So, based on our latest numbers, that's a monthly cost of about $5,350.

The kind of big news as far as Grapevine goes is that there has not been a price increase in a very long time. I've been doing this for almost 8 years, and the price per issue is the same. We currently pay $1.75 an issue. This was established when the cover price was $2. A little over 2 years ago, the cover price was increased to $3. We also pay a flat rate of $450 a month for shipping.

Shipping has been a kind of convoluted process where the printer ships them to a warehouse that in turn distributes them. We hope to fix that. They have indicated they will need to renegotiate both shipping cost and subscription prices. They also indicated that there are efficiencies to be gained by modifying the shipping process to subscriptions instead of bulk shipping.

They've been going through some organizational upheaval and will be reaching out to discuss further once their situation has settled down. Joe, Joyce and I will be discussing with Grapevine leadership when they are ready – and we will definitely keep the Committee informed. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Publisher Chair Jude H

To reiterate what Joe reported earlier, the newsletter going forward will be redacted only. We are going to be requesting all October reports in the last week of September. I'd like to emphasize: if you're an Area or Regional Chair, please respond to Lynn as soon as possible, because it takes time for her to compile all of those reports into one report.

Also, if you have any events coming up in October, November, December; if you have flyers or need help creating a flyer, I can help with that, and can include those in the newsletter as well.

Spanish Communications Chair Martin L n/a

Website/Audio Chair Thom H

Thom messaged me that he was not available to attend this meeting, but I will have an update regarding the website in our Committee Business.

Registrar Bruce A n/a

LIAISON REPORTS

VATF, Sacramento Jeff L - no report

H&I Liaison To CNCA, James C

The focus has been on implementing agenda topic outcomes, because that was the focus in our first quarter, and many areas are holding workshops to better acquaint GSRs with the process and gathering information. There's a continuing discussion on how to implement the results of the inventories to better serve members.

They continue to discuss implementing a QR code that links to a simple and consistent message about AA's primary purpose. A lot of energy has been put into the pre-conference and post-conference assemblies.

My report to CNCA mentions our IVSS program, that it's going well and we're actively seeking volunteers to sponsor those in prisons. I have made some posters available in English and in Spanish to acquaint people with the IVSS program, and I invite comments and suggestions. I'm learning a lot as a liaison to CNCA of all the good work that they do, so thank you for letting me be of service.

Liaison to CNIA (California Northern Interior Area), Vikki R n/a

H&I Liaison to SoCal, James C

The focus of the last couple of Southern California business meetings has been the upcoming 2026 SoCal H&I conference. They also have been discussing the combined Southern California and Northern California H&I conference scheduled for 2027. They continue to discuss ways in which they can better serve the Spanish-speaking community.

They continue to discuss the need for better communications with the administration of jails and other institutions, such as prisons. They're making progress on finding ways to offer something like our IVSS program. They continue to discuss ways to place QR codes on H&I literature that directs people to their website, or to a specific program on their website.

My report to SoCal H&I includes a general statement of our current financial status. I made a pitch for the IVSS program and invited comments and suggestions.

Liaison from SoCal to NorCal, Nikki J n/a

Alt delegate CNCA & PICPC Chair Claudia N n/a

Contact email picpc@cnca06.org

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. **Pink Can Coordinator.**
   Joe N: This is an appointed position, and I'm pleased to announce that I asked Gareth M to serve as our Pink Can Coordinator, and he has graciously accepted prior to this meeting. Gareth, thank you for your willingness to be of service to this Committee. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and share your sobriety date, a bit about your H&I service history, and anything else you would like the Committee to know about you.

   Gareth M: Thank you, Joe. I live in San Francisco, have seven years sober, and doing H&I for most of those years. I realized early on that bringing the message to people who are confined is a great way to be of service. I was brought onto the H&I Committee by Penny C, who held my hand at the beginning first by doing Outreach. I became Area 62 Chair after that. It has taught me so much spiritually, emotionally and mentally. I didn't think I would be able to do the Chair position, but by the grace of my Higher Power and what other people saw in me that I didn't see in myself, I was able to be the Area 62 Chair for 4 years. I just handed off the position to Marcelo N, who is here today. I do love this service and when Joe asked me to serve on this Committee, I was grateful.

   Joe N: Per policy procedure, I can appoint people to this position but need confirmation by the Committee. I would ask if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding Gareth's appointment, then we will conduct the poll to approve.

   Poll to approve Gareth M as Pink Can Coordinator: 100% **YES** (2 abstain)

2. **Finance Committee Member #3.**
   Joe N: As many of you know, our Finance Committee Chair had to step down before completing their term. Karen C, who was serving as #2, is now our current Chair. Karen agreed to serve as the Finance Committee Chair for the remainder of 2026 and then continue serving in that position for the 2027 committee year. This would have been the next step for her in the normal progression through the Finance Committee. Because of that transition, the individual elected today will serve as Finance Committee Member #3 for the remainder of 2026 and will remain in the same #3 position for the 2027 committee year. This keeps the Committee's progression intact and provides a continuity that we've come to rely on within our Finance Committee.

   Qualifications for serving on the Finance Committee:
   a. be a current member of the NorCal Committee
   b. have a minimum of five years of continuous sobriety
   c. have at least three years of H&I service
   d. have a working knowledge of financial matters

   Finance Committee members are elected at large by the NorCal Committee to serve a 3-year term. At the start of their 3rd year, they will serve as the Finance Committee Chair. The Committee's intent is to provide continuity by allowing members to progress through the Finance Committee positions over time, ultimately preparing them to serve as the Finance Committee Chair.

   While in the meeting, it may have been said that they are appointed; this is actually an elected position and as indicated by the action taken, we did elect that person.

Ashley S: How much time does this position take?

Joe N: The Committee technically meets once a month. Member #3 starts out meeting once a month and participating in the budget meeting for one year (coming up soon). Member #3 moves up year over year until they become Finance Chair, and the Finance Chair works with the Treasurer monthly to reconcile the books.

Every voting member present raised their virtual hand and stated whether available to serve Finance Committee Member #3 or not.

Available: Annetta D & Ashley S

Joe N: I invite each candidate to briefly introduce themselves and share sobriety date, current NorCal service position, H&I experience and any financial background the Committee should know about.

[Ashley S rescinded her availability at this juncture]

Annetta D: I've been sober for 29 years and doing H&I in one way or another for the last 28 years. I am the current Area 52 Chair as well as the coordinator for the Richmond Women's Jail and for the Concord Bayberry facility. I've taken H&I into almost every kind of facility, including Juvenile Hall and a women's prison.

My financial background includes experience as an office manager and helping with payroll. Currently I serve as an administrator of a synthetic oil company.

Poll to approve Annetta D as Finance Committee Member #3: 100% **YES** (3 abstain)

3. **Website Ad Hoc Committee Update**

Joe N: The ad hoc committee held our first meeting earlier this month, and I'd like to thank everyone who showed up to serve on that committee. We have a great mix of trusted servants from around NorCal, along with members who bring technical experience and historical knowledge of our website as well. Our first meeting was focused on gathering information and exploring the options available to us.

We reviewed the previously approved WordPress migration, discussed the strengths of our current website, and identified opportunities to improve accessibility, navigation, long-term maintenance, and support for the principle of rotation.

At this point, no recommendations have been made yet. The committee is still gathering information, reviewing the available options, and discussing what might best serve the committee going forward.

We scheduled our next meeting already and will continue that work. As we make progress, I'll continue to provide updates at each Committee meeting and when the ad hoc committee is ready, we'll bring a recommendation back to this body for discussion and consideration.

Discussion Topics Joe N

As a reminder, these discussions are intended to give us an opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas and experiences, and hopefully leave with something we can take back to our Areas. This isn't intended to make policy today, but rather to encourage conversation and help us better understand how different areas are approaching similar situations. Let's remember to keep our comments focused on the topic, so everyone has an opportunity to participate. Also, as a reminder, if our discussion does start to get a little lengthy, and someone has been speaking for more than a few minutes, I may respectfully interrupt.

That's simply to make sure that we have time to hear from as many members as possible, and to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

1. **Evaluating new facility requests.** How do your Areas evaluate requests from facilities that wish to start an H&I meeting? As H&I continues to grow, many of us are receiving requests from a variety of facilities. Some are straightforward, while some may not be as clear. For example, how does your area handle requests from SLEs, sober living environments, assisted living facilities, residential care homes, or other facilities that may fall into a gray area? What process does your area use to evaluate these requests? Who was involved in making the decision? Is there any specific criteria your area looks at before approving a new meeting? Have you found yourself saying yes to some type of facilities and no to others? If so, why?

   Joy V: I am the Co-Chair for Area 43, and we do have a few facilities that are fairly atypical. One is a homeless shelter that requested H&I meetings in the past. We no longer bring meetings into that facility.

   There is another homeless facility called the Upper Room, that serves meals and provides some other outside support. Years ago, we brought in meetings, but it kind of faded away perhaps due to COVID.

   Recently they again requested H&I meetings. As a committee, we talked about whether residents fall into a category of people who can get regular access to AA meetings. Many residents do not have transportation. There are buses that go to the Upper Room specifically at mealtimes. As a group, we looked at the H&I guidelines and discussed if this fit our mission. There was a volunteer who was willing to recruit volunteers, so now it's up and running. We are in El Dorado County, which is pretty rural, and there are not many buses or other public transportation. Sometimes there are only one or two people participating, but it doesn't matter. Basically, we feel that if we can serve people where they are, we try and do that.

   Annetta D: Area 52 is Contra Costa County, and I was the one who requested this to be discussed. Most facilities who request H&I are straightforward for us. We invite the requester to our business meeting, so as a group we can ask any questions. We then vote on whether to bring a meeting there, and at that time try to get coordinated volunteers.

   What we are struggling with is that we've had a lot of requests from SLEs. Our thought process has been that SLEs are privately owned; people are paying rent to live there and can get out to attend regular AA meetings. We did not think it fell in the scope of H&I. However, I heard from other folks who feel that maybe this does fall in the scope of H&I, which is why I wanted to hear from others about SLEs. Any feedback or information is appreciated.

   Marcelo N: When a facility reaches out to us in Area 62 San Francisco, we present it to the Steering Committee. If it's a little ambiguous, Gareth and I typically go in ourselves for a few weeks just to test the waters and see how it goes. Unfortunately, 80-90% of the time, we find there's not consistent participation, or that's not appropriate either. We consider if residents can get out to AA meetings on their own and if it's appropriate for H&I. The last thing we want to do is to set up 8 volunteers to go into their first H&I commitment, and there's nobody there – or if the group is not even alcoholic.

   Jude H: I serve as Area 16 Chair and our experience was with bringing a meeting into a motel that had been servicing a lot of people that were just released from jail and homeless. They owned several of these hotels and requested an H&I meeting. There were some incidents, two stabbings – though not involving our volunteers. One person was killed in the neighboring hotel, and there was another stabbing at the hotel our volunteers were going into. Renee and I both attended one of the meetings, and we didn't think it was particularly safe. The people working there weren't around, and we talked about discontinuing the meeting, but then the facility actually closed down due to some fraudulent activity with their funding or something.

   We have another facility in Tehama County that we do bring meetings in, but volunteers were asked to

sponsor people. When I lived in San Francisco, I went through a women's recovery facility. There was a monthly meeting, but it was not H&I. We just held our own AA meeting, and people from the outside were invited to attend. So, sometimes the community itself can bring meetings in.

Ashley S: I took this position over in January, and it's different than when I was Area Chair 5 or 6 years ago. Roger said that we serve facilities are not just where they cannot get out, but where there's anyone who has a need for books. When I look at our new meeting roster, there are quite a few SLEs and H&I volunteers who are bringing meetings and literature. It's my understanding that H&I serves facilities where residents cannot get out and who need books. Am I wrong in that?

Joe N.: The reason we are discussing this today is to clarify these exact things.

Marian: We need to define what an SLE is. When I lived in San Mateo County and did H&I there, we had many SLEs that were living spaces, but we didn't take meetings there per se. There were other residential facilities that were supported by San Mateo that we took H&I meetings to. Here in Area 36 Sierra Nevada, there are two residential facilities (male and female) that H&I serves weekly as requested by their supervising organization Granite Wellness. But we do not take H&I meetings into their Tea Houses, which are sober living environments. These are residential 90-day programs. As I'm listening to the conversation, there are all kinds of definitions of SLE, including homeless shelters. We have been trying to service a homeless shelter here, although no one shows up to our meetings and I think we are wasting our time.

Jeff L: Back in 2017 (approximately), we changed the definition. Before Karen was Chair, the Committee policy was H&I served facilities where residents could not get out for three weeks (i.e., their first three weeks of residency). That was kind of the rule, which fell into the confined statement in our Pink Pamphlet. There was a facility right across the street from San Quentin. Karen was Chair and the Committee voted to change that. We determined that people could be confined by their financial situations, so we included homeless shelters and such. I really like what Marcelo said about what he and Gareth are doing in San Francisco. They're taking it on themselves to visit facilities firsthand to assess the residents' needs for meetings and books. There are places like Duffy's where you can't get out and go to a meeting, but they don't need our books – they're charging $30K per month. Every Area is different. In 2017-18, prisons started dumping guys on the street and our members went from being confined to an institution where we could bring them literature, to living in homeless shelters or on the street.

Renee P: I remember when we did change the definition of being confined, and it was broadened to financially confined. Region 15 is a very rural area, and I have a problem with bringing literature and meetings into places where residents can drive, and you see them in other meetings. We do that here. When we get a request from a facility, we have the administrator come to our committee meeting and tell us about the place; then Area 16 Chair Jude H and I visit the facility to make sure it's safe. If it seems okay with us, we bring it back to the Committee and then must staff it with a Facility Coordinator and 10 volunteers.

Jessica H: In Area 45 there are rehab facilities with detox, and we take meetings into the Detox facility only until they have the freedom to come and go as they please. They don't necessarily have access to a ride but take residents to regular meetings. We also have SLEs where we do not take meetings in. For me the line is if residents have the freedom to come and go on their own to outside AA meetings.

Karen C: To embellish a bit on what Jeff said about the definition of being confined, and background. At that time, we were not just thinking of people who are financially confined, but about people in senior living centers; places where people are allowed to leave, but do not have the ability to (i.e., drive themselves). I think that's really an untapped need for our Committee to be serving places like that too. We were also thinking in terms of our national efforts to carry the message. We must realize that H&I in California is all one Committee – the Corrections aspect and the Treatment aspect. However, in most of the rest of the Country Corrections and Treatment are under two separate committees. We also had to ask ourselves if we were providing the same service to an alcoholic who would be in Nevada or Idaho or other state, where

a General Service Treatment committee would be carrying the message. We wanted to be sure that we weren't short-changing alcoholics here in California because our committee was originally created to carry the message into institutions – and therefore we had a narrow definition of confinement.

Omar L: My personal experience with AA was in an institution. In the Spanish community many people don't know that the H&I Committee is part of the AA program. This is misinformation that we are trying to change. We need a lot of support and thank you to Joyce R for her service. If anyone has ideas about how to handle this, please reach out to me.

Joe N: I hope you can all connect offline with other ideas or things you heard.

2. **Regional Chair Role and Recruitment.**
Joe N: This pertains to the Regional Chair position itself. I'd like to discuss if we are utilizing the Regional Chair position as effectively as we could and discuss your ideas for developing and recruiting future Regional Chairs. Regional Chairs play an important role in supporting communication between NorCal and our Areas; they help mentor Area leadership, and strengthen H&I throughout their Regions. With that in mind, what is working well with the Regional Chair position today? Are there opportunities to better utilize the position? How can we better prepare and encourage members to step into Regional Chair positions, and what can we do today to help develop tomorrow's trusted servants?

James C: I'm moving into my fourth year as Region 60 Chair. This position was vacant for several years before I took it on, and I realized at some point that it would become necessary to sort of groom a replacement. So, I started doing that as part of my announcements in business meetings, mentioning that I'm in the fourth year of doing this very rewarding service, and I invite people who are interested to come and attend this quarterly business meeting to see what this committee does. There's so much that goes on in this Committee, it is impossible to get acquainted with its many functions without actually taking part in it. I have had a couple of good, positive responses. By planting the seed with people who might be interested in what I call the wider world of H&I, I'm recruiting now before my time is up.

Marian P: Are all our Regional Chair positions filled?

Joe N: No, they are not. You can see which Regional Chair positions are currently open and available on the Roster. There is a process in the Policy manual about how to become the Chair for a given Region.

Jessica H: I wanted to say that not only are not all Regional Chair positions filled, but some people have been sitting in Regional Chair positions for a very long time. The spirit of rotation is a huge thing. I love that we just heard about bringing someone up to fill the position. Talking to Coordinators to bring them up to fill the Area Chair position is what I plan to do to.

Marian P: Our Region 30 Chair Nancy H is not here today, but I was new as Area Chair when Nancy stepped in as Regional Chair. She was so helpful to me, and I imagine that is what a Regional Chair does. I just want to speak to those who have the experience to step up. I'm also just promoting Nancy.

Bill H: Sometimes I think I'm the only one in the world who can do what I do, and I'm wrong about that. For too many years I've been a kind of lone wolf out here in Corcoran and Avenal and over 15-16 years. I've waited for the right time to ask someone to take over my position. I cannot tell you how many times I waited too long and people moved out of state or whatever. A month ago, I was meeting with my friend Lou and we were talking about the spirit of rotation, and I kind of joked about Lou taking over my position. Lou came back a week later and said he would be open to discussing that. The lesson here is to quit thinking and just ask people if they're open to doing things.

Renee P: I'm in my fourth year as Region 15 Chair and am looking for someone to replace me. I was Area Chair for four years and moved up to Regional Chair. I can tell you I was far busier as an Area Chair. As Regional Chair, I cover three counties and act as a kind of liaison by going to their business meetings and

come back and share what's happening in all three Areas. People get scared and I tell them there's nothing to be afraid of, you're not going to die.

Karen C: Regarding the general Committee policy about Regional Chairs who have been in their position for a very long time. Our policy is generally that appointed positions do not have a term limit, but elected positions do – and they should observe the spirit of rotation. Thank you James for sharing about your experience with succession planning, because it's critical to do that.

Jeff L: The Regional Chair position has changed a lot because we included Area Chairs as voting members of this Committee, and they did not previously have a voice. Maybe we should consider making a qualification for a Regional Chair being a past Area Chair. Combine that with helping Major Institutions recruit people as well, because Major Institutions are not serviced by the Area, they are serviced by the Region. Having a Regional Chair could be an asset to Major Institution Coordinators, as well as a way to support Area Chairs.

James C: Something that came up in Area 61 regarding an AA group meeting in Strawberry (Marin) that dissolved and they want to donate approximately 10 new Big Books, 10 new 12&12s and 6 Came to Believe books to Marin H&I. I wrote back that I thought it would be prudent to accept. But would ask this Committee.

Open Forum

Joe N: Area 54 Chair Jen B asked me to pass this info along in case there are other Areas experiencing something similar:

Area 54 recently met with Solano County Jail Criminal Justice Program Service Manager and learned the facility changed its procedures regarding literature distribution. Effective immediately, volunteers are no longer permitted to leave literature with inmates. At this time, only the AA Big Book and the Plain Language Big Book are approved for inmates to keep, and those books must be distributed by Correctional Staff after they have been reviewed, approved, and stamped by the facility. Volunteers may still bring literature to use during the meeting, but it is not to be left behind with inmates. This also includes the Grapevine.

Area 54 also learned they may submit up to five additional AA books for the facility to review for possible future approval. They wanted us to be aware of these changes in case other Areas are beginning to see similar restrictions. Does anyone have anything similar?

Melody T: This past Thursday, we were allowed to take books in; inmates could put their name and booking number on a sticky and I could then drop them off with Inmate Services Program. Going forward, I can only bring in one book for me (I'm the only one cleared at this time). Inmates have to come up to the front to read from the book (not pick it up). This may be something we need to address. I immediately contacted the Program Director, who wasn't there. Maybe we can have the books sent to the facility. People really enjoy the literature, including Grapevines.

Annetta D: For us it's been a few years now that we are not allowed to physically bring in books because they're considered "uncontrolled items." We are required to drop off cases of books to both Martinez and Richmond jails; staff ensures there's no contraband; then they are taken to the libraries. Inmates can request books from their libraries, but are allowed to keep them.

AA Anniversaries:
Miki S **30 years** May 4 & in August Miki will have 30 years with H&I
Jessica H **4 years** June 27
Erica D **9 years** July 7
Jeff L **26 years** May 27
Joyce R **13 years** June 4
Melody T **39 years** June 24
Leigh Ann M **8 years** May 1

End Meeting with Responsibility Declaration

H&I Regional & Area Reports October 2026

Region 01 Far North Coastal

Area 02 Del Norte, Marla B

Area 03 Siskiyou, Penny C
We are serving Yreka Jail, Intermountain Fire Camp, and the Convalescent home in Weed. We are still struggling with the clearances for the jail and the fire camp. We meet quarterly. We are meeting Oct.2nd.

Area 04 Humboldt, Timothy L
One thing I learned last night was that we are providing 18 meetings per month to Humboldt County Jail. That surprised me because on the calendar, they only go in on Mondays and Wednesdays. However, they are split into multiple meetings to serve different pods. This is only for the men's jail. The coordinator for the women's jail was absent.

One question that came up concerned navigating clearance procedures. The question posed was when, or if, it is productive to go over the head of the contact at the facility. I recently had some success with this at Juvenile Hall; however, it must be handled very diplomatically.

Our new meeting at Fortuna Rehabilitation and Wellness is going well, with about six participants at the bi-weekly meetings. The coordinator voiced some concern about how to get new secretaries to fully buy into the commitment.

We had a representative from HCYPAA (Humboldt County Young People in A.A.), so hopefully we will be getting some new participation from that group.

Other than that, all is going smoothly.

Region 10 Far North Interior

Area 11 Modoc, Ryan H

Area 12 Lassen, OPEN

Region 15 Lower Far North Interior, Renee P

Area 16 Shasta, Jude H. All 9 meetings in 7 facilities are running smoothly. Our monthly New Volunteer Orientation and Business Meeting are well attended. Most of our rosters are full but we always need alternates.

Area 07 has a new Bridging the Gap Chair, Darlene B., who came to our last business meeting. We are cooperating with BTG and I have given her our inside contact information so that she can make presentations to them. One of our facilities, Sugar Pine Fire Camp, is already using BTG and several recently released inmates have gotten connected with BTG to take them to their first meetings on the outside.

Our H&I Workshop in July was a huge success. We had approximately 100 people in attendance and our guest speakers from Restpadd Psychiatric, Bridging the Gap and our own Penny C (Area 03 Chair) were informative, engaging and highly motivational.

I have been bringing up the spirit of rotation and have had discussions with several facility coordinators to see if they would be open to stepping up as Area Chair when my term is up. I hope to see a smooth transition next summer!

Support requests. Area 16, along with Area 07, NorCal Intergroup and REDYPAA will be participating in the third annual NorCal Unity Day on October 10th from 10am - 3pm. The first Unity Day was sponsored by Area 16 with seed money that we received from the annual redistribution from NorCal H&I. It has been self-supporting since then. The theme this year is "Trudging the Road of Happy Destiny". We will have informational tables, panel speakers and a Western style lunch. The event will be held at the Happy Valley Community Center in Anderson CA and I will include a copy of the event flyer.

Tehama County (Area 17): There have been virtually no changes since our last committee meeting. They may be losing one facility (Women's shelter) due to lack of volunteers.

Question or agenda item for the committee meeting: In the event that an area chair cannot be present to vote, can a co-chair vote in their place? Our policy manual does not directly address this.

Trinity County (Area 18): There have been no changes this last quarter. The jails (Men & Women) have been active. Trinity River Fire Camp is still ready to receive volunteers into their camp. Sad to report but the CDCR has lost 3 applications, and they are nowhere to be found.

Area 17 Tehama, Mike D – see Renee P above
Area 18 Trinity, Diane C – see Renee P above

Region 20 Northern Coastal

Area 21 Mendocino, Ryan Y
Men's Jail Report: The Men's jail is doing really good. We have 5 men who are cleared and covering 4 meetings a month. There are about 3 more volunteers that are submitting paperwork at this time. Literature is up to date. Attendance is anywhere from 2-10 people.

Women's Jail Report: The Friday evening AA meeting on the women's side is going well. We have 4 women cleared who are covering 2 meetings a month. I have another 3 women in the process of getting cleared at the moment. Attendance is sometimes 2 and up to 9 people.

Juvenile Hall Report: This place is awesome! We only go in every other Sunday of the month, as requested by the facility. Trying to keep the kids engaged is sometimes a challenge but we do pretty good with the exposure we give them. We have some more interest in Juvie so there are more people stepping up for service. We are looking into the plain language big book to order and take in. Attendance is always around 9-15 kids.

Ukiah Recovery Center Report: Meetings are going great. We have plenty of volunteers and many alternates. Literature needs some work so we are in the process of getting that back in order. Attendance is usually 20 or more.

Fort Bragg Hospitality Center Report: We still have coverage and the meeting is moving forward. This is usually a transient facility that offers meetings so the attendance varies from 2-6 people.

There is a new mental health facility that has asked H&I to be a part of. The people are confined and can't get to outside meetings. I will keep you informed when all the details get ironed out.

Area 22 Sonoma, Liz W
Updates: Elections were held at our last business meeting, September 3rd. I will be continuing as Area Chair for the next term of 2 years.

One new facility was added in Petaluma, bringing our total weekly meeting for our facilities to 23. We still have 2 on hold at Santa Rosa Behavioral Health while they are doing some internal restructuring.

Attendance at our business meeting continues to be strong with new AA members attending every month.

Our annual H&I Appreciation BBQ was held in July, we had a great turnout of 300+. Fellowship, speaker meeting (Mike D from Cottonwood, CA and David B from Arizona), BBQ, and potluck desserts.

Area 23 Lake, Kelli S

- Lake County H&I currently carries weekly meetings into the Hilltop men's facility, Hope Center, and Project Restoration. Konocti Conservation Camp receives two meetings each week and has been served very consistently for the past three years. One of the Konocti panels also provides sponsorship, and volunteers have helped at least five men complete all 12 Steps.
- At the Lake County Jail, two women are currently carrying a meeting every other Monday. One additional woman and one man have completed the clearance process but are not participating consistently, and no men's meeting is currently being carried into the jail. We now have a designated jail facility coordinator who serves as the central contact, understands the policies and procedures, and funnels communication between H&I and jail staff.
- Our committee's greatest success has been its growth and stability. Three years ago, our monthly business meeting had approximately five attendees; today, we average around 13. We are also better stocked with literature than ever and have our strongest prudent reserve to date. Our recent recruitment flyer appears to be creating some movement: approximately four new women have attended each of our last two business meetings, are asking questions, and have been heard discussing possible involvement. No one has formally committed to a position yet, but the interest is encouraging.
- Our greatest challenge remains volunteer participation and succession. All facilities need additional volunteers so that the same members are not continually carrying the panels. The jail currently has only four cleared volunteers, only two of whom participate consistently, and no active men's panel. Our Chair, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Literature positions are scheduled for elections in November, shadowing in December, and complete rotation in January. At present, no one has committed to stepping into these positions. For years, a very small number of people have held multiple positions to keep H&I operating. This has contributed to an assumption that the work will continue regardless of broader fellowship participation, but that is not sustainable.
- We have been actively trying to address this. For the past two years, I have made a major H&I recruitment announcement at Soberfest. In April, Lake County hosted the Northern California H&I Round-Up and business meeting. The event was well attended, although much of the attendance came from outside our area, and it did not produce the sustained local participation we need. We have also created and circulated a direct recruitment flyer explaining that without new volunteers, the message stops here. Between now and January, we will continue distributing the flyer and personally inviting newer attendees to consider taking positions and beginning the shadowing process.
- We have also been unable to restore the women's meeting at Hilltop. Access was lost before my term began following a breakdown in the relationship between the former facility coordinator and facility leadership. The men's meeting has continued weekly. We have made several efforts over the past two years to restore the women's panel but have not been invited back, and we understand that H&I must be invited into a facility. Project Restoration is a residential facility, so new volunteers must initially enter with one of the established contacts. This creates a small onboarding barrier but has not significantly disrupted the weekly meeting.
- We would appreciate hearing what other areas have done when workshops, announcements, flyers, and direct outreach have not produced enough sustained participation or trusted servants. We would also welcome guidance about whether there is an appropriate regional approach for repairing a damaged institutional relationship and reopening a panel while still respecting the requirement that H&I enter by invitation.

<u>Region 30 Northern Interior, Nancy H</u>

I'm on the initial attack on fires and have been out since July working, so have no Region report. All of the Area Chairs have given a report this quarter – **see below**.

Area 31 Glenn & Butte Counties, Aron G-B

This is the second month I've had the position. It's a wonderful opportunity for me to grow through service. I love H&I and I'm convinced it's saved my life on multiple occasions.

It's been a great and informative start. We have a lot of people interested in getting started and getting some experience, which is super cool. Yet still there is a slight shortfall on the two jails we bring meetings into. The Glenn County jail is certainly short and we sometimes miss weeks. Announcements for that service position are being made more frequently.

A couple cool happenings, we are making progress at the juvenile though getting new folks in has been slow. Currently have two people cleared to go in.

We have also made a start at bringing meetings into a 55+ community and one of us will be attending the resident meeting this month. Also, a couple of us are attempting to open the door for meetings in the local pallet shelter. Good stuff, thank you for your service.

Area 32 Plumas, Michael B

Area 34 Placer, Chris D
Activity is ok... feel we have room for improvement. Our Recovery & Community H&I meetings have good coverage & VERY few if any "dark" nights to report.

Our issues have been w the Correctional Facilities changing their day & time. Meetings were during the week & ALL have been moved to Sunday's @ 2:30pm. During this transition we have lost some volunteers on our side, Coordinators who have rotated out & not been replaced YET. Feel this will correct itself soon. We have been having Workshops to gain interest to new volunteers which has helped. Also, the meeting attendance has been lower in some areas due to the day/time change. Feel this will increase in the near future.

Area 36 Nevada Sierra, Marian P
Area 36 H&I meets once a month at Sierra Presbyterian Church; Hatcher Hall from 11-12:30. We meet on the last Saturday of the month following the AA District 20 Meeting. Our meeting provides orientation for new volunteers.

We receive monthly reports from the coordinator for each facility. We take weekly AA meetings to three local residential facilities: Hope House (women); Serenity House, (Men) and Lovette House (co-ed).

We take weekly meetings to Wayne Brown for men and women. We take a weekly meeting to Hospitality House, a center for the unhoused. We are increasing our presence in the Grass Valley/Nevada City Area.

Region 40 Central Interior, Terry D

Area 42 Yolo Sacramento, Ashley S
All is well here in area 42. We have about 25-40 people coming to our business meeting. We have had a TON of new facilities these last two quarters and I am updating our form 2 as we speak. We've included our Spanish speaking chair and his meetings to our minutes as I didn't know he was a part of our area so that's exciting. It did cause a little bit of riffraff in our last business meeting, however, with the excess amount of money given to us and what to do with it. Some felt it was silly to try and use those funds for a picnic or other things so we basically had to have a vote on whether we wanted to give the money to other groups like the one in New York I think, and a few other others or just give it back to H&I to use for literature. The vote was that people put money in the cans for literature, not for other groups and so the decision was to send it back to you. I have attached our immediate volunteer needs. I love being of service in this capacity thank you for letting me!

Update: We are changing our decision on what to do with the extra money that was given because the literature person has said it has now become a burden in her garage so we are looking into storage solutions for the year.

Area 43 El Dorado, Alfred B
We are currently going into 9 facilities. A facility has reached out that would add one more, but this is still in conversation to see what date and time will work with the facility. Participation has been good; we have been able to cover all positions. We are always looking for alternates to avoid any dark nights.

There has been no update for the county jail if there is an orientation coming up.

One request that can up from our meeting that was asked to be raised is to have the monthly budget uploaded to the website in a more timely fashion. We do not need any additional support currently.

Area 44 Amador, OPEN

Area 45 Colusa Sutter Yuba, Jessica H
Area 45 is having an election to form an area committee on October 3rd at 1:00 pm at The Hub Alano Club at 518 12th St. Marysville, CA. We are receiving a steady stream of new volunteers. We are very much in need of facility coordinators. We are currently serving upwards of 14 facilities in our tri county area. We are working on continuing the spirit of rotation to move volunteers up to coordinator positions or into correctional facilities. As the Area Chair I am hoping the formation of a committee will promote more unity and inspire people to step up to different and higher service. We are always in need of volunteers on every level though the number of facilities we serve in our small community is always a success!

Region 50 East Bay

Area 51 Napa, John K
All meetings covered (except for occasional brown out/institutional staffing issues). Successful restart of second meeting at Napa State Hospital (9am Fridays). New volunteers for Napa County Jail-Men, Women and Spanish speaking-got indoctrination and are in final clearance process. Men's coordinator continuing discussions with Jail Administration on Literature.

Area 52 Contra Costa, Annetta D

Area 53 Alameda, Amy S
Area 53 meetings and committee operations continued strongly last quarter. We welcomed around 10 potential new volunteers at each monthly virtual orientation, with several staying for the business meeting afterward. Of the many facilities that approached us throughout this year to start meetings, we have now found coordinators for them all, and most of these new meetings are active and thriving. However, one challenge that we continue to see is the increased incidence of mental health facilities requiring background checks for H&I volunteers, while not having the internal coordination or processes in place to implement this, causing some meetings to remain on hold.

We have been planning our first ever workshop for Group Reps on October 7 at 6:30pm on Zoom, which will focus on the responsibilities of the H&I Rep role and how it connects AA groups to service. Anyone from other areas interested in attending, contact trustedservantjoseph@gmail.com.

In August, our annual end-of-summer picnic was a great success, with around 50 attendees. Since our monthly meetings are on zoom, our in-person gatherings are an important opportunity to celebrate service and fellowship together.

Finally, with great sadness we share the news of the passing in August of two deeply dedicated volunteers with decades of service rooted in H&I: HE Nielson and Carl Price. Both HE and Carl touched countless lives through decades of leadership in H&I, both at the Area level and on the NorCal committee. Our picnic offered an opportunity to honor them and share memories and gratitude for their deep legacy of service.

Area 54 Solano, Jen B This quarter we held our **Area 54 H&I Workshop in Fairfield**. It was a great opportunity for fellowship, education, and learning more about H&I service. A huge thank you to our speakers, panelists, volunteers, and everyone who helped with setup, food, and all the behind-the-scenes work. Most importantly, thank you to everyone who came out and supported the workshop. It truly takes all of us working together to continue carrying the message.

We also held a Zoom meeting with our Solano County Jail H&I volunteers to review facility policies and procedures. We went over the dress code, appropriate conduct and boundaries, approved literature and belongings, and the importance of following facility guidelines for everyone's safety. We reiterated that volunteers should go in together and communicate when they cannot make their commitment so a replacement can be found and meetings do not go dark.

There has also been a request to explore adding an H&I meeting for men in the downtown jail dayroom. We are continuing to work on what would be needed to make that possible.

Our jail literature procedures have been clarified. Volunteers are following facility requirements regarding approved literature and making sure materials are brought in through the proper process.

PICPC made contact with Archway regarding the possibility of H&I becoming involved there. We will continue following up to see if there is an opportunity to establish an H&I presence.

We are still in need of a **CSP Solano Coordinator as well as additional volunteers**. This continues to be an important need for Area 54.

I have continued participating with the NorCal H&I Website Advisory Committee. The new website is coming along very nicely, and it has been great to be part of the process and provide input from the Area level.

Overall, Area 54 remains focused on supporting our current meetings, filling our open service positions, and looking for new opportunities to carry the message.

Region 60 West Bay San Francisco, Chair, James C

Much remains unchanged from last quarter: There continues to be good turnout for new volunteers at the monthly orientations for each area, and we are seeing more coordinators and meeting representatives 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. All areas have robust programs that are working to increase their participation in institutions their respective areas. Area 62 (SF) has a new slate of officers.

A couple of questions came up at several business meetings: Though it is understood that we bring 2 people in for each meeting at the facilities we service, the question comes up that if there is no second person available, do we still bring the meeting in? My advice on this has been standard procedure is we bring 2 people in for each meeting, but better to hold the meeting than have a dark night, the only exception being in cases where there is an issue of safety for the volunteers.

Topics I bring up at each Area business meeting:

- H&I finances and the need for attention to the pink can donations, suggesting that reps to find ways to consistency in donation schedules, and perhaps remind their respective meetings that a dollar just go as far as it used to.
- I pitch the IVSS program, stating it is going very well and we are actively seeking those who would sponsor someone in prisons, with an emphasis on needing Spanish-speaking volunteers. Fliers are made available at meetings where these handouts are not present. I invite comments and suggestions.

Area 61 Marin Hilary D

We are continuing a new process at our Orientation. One Coordinator brings in the Roster Openings and Facility Descriptions. They also hand out a printed copy of our Facility Coordinators with contact info so New Members can make themselves available to speak. This way we are engaging New Members who have to leave before the H&I Business Meeting.

We have centralized our Literature at the Alano Club so Coordinators and Secretaries can easily access needed Literature to distribute at all Facilities.

We are bringing once monthly meetings to the following three facilities: Rosebay Behavioral Health on the 4th Sunday, Alta Mira on the 4th Thursday and Casa Canal on the 4th Wednesday. We have expanded our meetings at Marin Behavioral Health to 2 per week. In addition to Sunday at 7pm we are now going in on Wednesday evening at 7pm. Rising Recovery opened its site in San Rafael on Joseph St. We are taking meetings in Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 7pm.

Regarding openings for secretaries & alternates at facilities; we are doing follow-up emails with everyone who attends H&I Orientation to facilitate more engagement each month. In addition, we emailed every H&I volunteer who has joined in the last 2 years which filled 19 secretary and alternate openings.

We will have a table at Unity Day, October 17th at the Alano Club. Activities and games to get engagement from attendees and let them know about opportunities to be of service through H&I.

The New Rep Coordinator sends out an email to share openings and needs for speakers and IVSS opportunities Two facilities have openings for coordinators. I am acting as coordinator for them.

Other than that, things are going well. We serve 16 facilities with a total of 23 meetings per week.

Area 62 San Francisco Marcelo N
We have asked all the coordinators to show up for the business meeting, some think if they don't show up continuously that they should pass on their commitment. We will see how many show up to the business meeting this month. Trying to get coordinators more responsible and communicative

Starting a new meeting at Walden House Sunday evenings at 7pm going live next month or later this month. We currently go in there on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Group rep page on handisf.org – group reps can now see current info and sample announcements. We have approximately 330 volunteers and 33 meetings per week. There are one or two coordinator positions to fill but seem to be doing good on rosters right now.

Working out some kinks with the online site. If coordinators don't update their rosters, it can get confusing and inaccurate reminders go out to volunteers no longer in the position. This is why it is important to have coordinators at the business meeting.

Trying to get clarity if a speaker or second volunteer does not show up if someone can go in alone in a pinch. Don't see this anywhere in NorCal handbook that one person can't go in to bring in a meeting. NorCal please advise.

If coordinators need new volunteers they can now see all new orientees with no current commitment on website.

Area 65 San Mateo Mike G (Chair) & Dylan H (Co-Chair)
1 - Project WeHOPE is desperate for Volunteers

Time: Tuesdays @ 5:30pm || Location: East Palo Alto

2 - RWC Men's Jails has openings
New Requirements: 3 Years Sobriety and 3 Years Off Probation (*down from 5 Years*)

3 - Seeking Men for Spanish Speaking meetings in RWC Men's Jails
New Requirements: 3 Years Sobriety and 3 Years Off Probation (*down from 5 Years*)

** In addition to these three opportunities, there are additional openings. **

Region 70 Southern Coastal

Area 71 Santa Clara, Michelle D (Chair) **& Mike O** (Co-Chair)
Activity level for Area 71 is well attended. Most all of the Facility Coordinators are having success with getting people to be of service. We do need some coordinators and always need more people to be of service. I hear the announcements for H&I at most meetings I go to. We have added 2 new facilities since last report and removed 2 facilities.

Area 72 Monterey, Mark F (Chair) **& Cindy A** (Co-Chair)

Area 73 Santa Cruz, Victoria H
Overall, all is well in Santa Cruz County. We currently bring meetings into 9 treatment facilities and 5 jails (including juvenile hall). We have been seeing a lot of success from people filling out our volunteer interest form that is on our website and our Help Wanted flyers.

We recently approved as a committee to make our business meetings hybrid to hopefully allow more folks to be able to join. We didn't see many people join in for the first meeting since it became hybrid but still received about 15 people in person. Our typical attendance at business meetings is 15-20 people.

There has been a new position proposed for our committee called the "Outreach Coordinator" that would essentially attend different meetings in the county to encourage any groups that do not have an H&I rep to add one and explain the purpose of it. This will be voted on at our next business meeting.

Area 74 San Benito, Doug S

Region 80 Chair, Melody T

Area 81 – Stanislaus: Monthly business meetings are held on the last Wednesday evening. Recovery and behavioral health meetings have enough coverage. County limits on outside jail volunteers restrict service, and the committee wants to expand jail meetings, especially in Spanish.

Area 82 – San Joaquin: Business meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. The committee serves recovery centers, homeless shelters, and the county jail. Volunteers are urgently needed for both jail populations, and the new education facility has requested more AA meetings.

Area 83 – Tuolumne: H&I activity has declined because several facilities closed. The area chair is concerned that unstable state and federal funding could affect remaining services.

Area 84 – Calaveras: County jail service is stable, with more than 10 volunteers. An additional meeting is planned for the women's jail.

Area 86 – Merced: The committee is working to provide service at the county jail and Atwater Federal Prison. Volunteers have also asked about serving Jamestown Fire Camp, and Area 82 is interested. However, the Major Facilities Chair reports that applications are not currently being processed.

Area 81 Stanislaus, Pete D – see Region 80 Melody T report above

Area 82 San Joaquin, Bruce W
One of our biggest challenges is having enough people to hold meetings. At the same time, we are getting requests from new facilities for meetings. Another challenge is that a lot of our home groups don't have an H& I rep.

Area 82 had an H & I informational workshop in August. We find that many groups know about us but really don't know what we do. Money is always a concern. One of my challenges is to reach out to different groups in our area and to get them information about what we do.

Our biggest success is having excellent communication, and very passionate dedicated people.

Area 83 Tuolumne, **Bruce A** (Chair) **& Nate C** (Co-Chair) – see Region 80 Melody T report above
Area 84 Calaveras Andrew K (Chair) **& Don H** (Co-Chair) – see Region 80 Melody T report above
Area 86 Merced, **Paul C** – see Region 80 Melody T report above

Region 90 Far Southern Interior

Area 91 Madera Mariposa, Miki S
Our only Madera County facility, River Vista Behavioral Health Hospital, has been dark for our AA H&I meetings in active participation for a while now, however, we have been in close contact with our communication with their staff representative. They are actively working to resolve the staffing shortage issues which I have been assured is the only problem with our continuing participation. They have been busy with both hiring and training new staff. This, further, creates a hesitation to continue with encouraging more of our members to join our team.

I have also spoken with some individuals from our mountain area who have expressed interest in participating with the Mariposa County team that go into the Mariposa County Jail and the Trade Recovery Center. Our Mariposa team has seen quite a bit of growth and interest, adding to the AA activity in our mountain area.

Area 92 Fresno, Ron F
I will be voted in as the Area 92 Chairperson at our Area 92 Business meeting this coming September 21, 2026. Andrew had to step down due to health issues, so I am currently Interim Chairperson until this coming business meeting when the Election will be held.

We continue to hold 27 Total Meetings in 12 different treatment facilities monthly. This total includes the English and Spanish H&I meetings we take into the Fresno County jail every Thursday.

We dropped one location from our list of Treatment facilities and will be adding a new one possibly in the upcoming months. We are still working on the details.

I am in the process of going over the entire Area 92 H&I Volunteer listing and cleaning it up. Some people have moved out of the area and are not in the current rotation of volunteers. We are reaching out to everyone on that listing to confirm their participation.

We hold our H&I Volunteer Orientation every other month on the third Monday of the month coming next on October 19, 2026. Our H&I business meetings are every other month on that same third Monday coming up on September 21, 2026.

Area 93 Tulare, Joyce R
We continue to hold 14 H&I meetings in 8 different treatment facilities monthly. In addition, we bring English and Spanish H&I meetings into Tulare County Jail monthly.

At our September Area Business Meeting, we had new volunteers attend orientation, set a date for our Volunteer Appreciate Event and reviewed the Area Chair duties as we hold our Area Chair election on November 14, 2026. We continue to provide an H&I Report monthly at our District meeting along with our Central Office meeting to ensure that we get H&I information out to local AA meetings as we have very few H&I reps attending our Area Business Meetings. Our Area H&I orientations are held on the 2nd Saturday of odd months at 9:00 am in person, followed by our Business Meeting at 10:00 am. We do hold additional orientations if the need arises to get volunteers into service.

We greatly appreciate Louie T., Major Institution Coordinator for SATF. While we understand that the MICs are appointed by and report to the Major Institution Chair, and MICs are not required to attend the Area Meetings, Louie takes the time to attend our Area Meeting. Louie provides a comprehensive report of what is going on at SATF and IVSS and is available to answer questions. Since the biggest pool of qualified volunteer come from the Area, Area meetings are a good place for MIC to draw volunteers from and Louie recognizes this opportunity. In an effort to encourage more participation at SATF, our upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Event will revolve around the need for volunteers for Major Institutions and IVSS.

Area 95 Kings, OPEN

Region 140 Spanish North Interior, Omar L

Region 160 Spanish North Coast, Jose Luis C

Area 161 Sonoma, Isidoro V

Region 170, Spanish, Alfredo G

Region 180 Spanish Central Interior, Jesus V

Region 190 Spanish South Interior, Francisco D

Major Institutions Reports October 2026

Avenal State Prison (ASP), Monte S & Bill H

Corcoran State Prison (COR), Jason M

10 meetings/week (9 English and 1 Spanish). Attendance is about 15-20 men per meeting, so approximately 200 men/week being served.

Volunteers = 9 (5 English, 4 Spanish). Many hold clearances at SATF and ASP as well.

2nd annual Speaker Jam will be taking place on Oct 3 (3A and 3B) and on Oct 24 (4B). We were provided 24 English and Spanish Big Books and 24 English and Spanish 12 and 12's for the event.

As a new coordinator I am reaching out to people in my area to try to build our volunteer base. We will have some potential new volunteers attend the Speaker Jam event with the hopes of converting them to full-time volunteers to take in meetings.

SATF, Louie T

CCWF & VSP Chowchilla, Miki S

We continue to participate with our meetings at the 2 CDCR Institutions in our area, CCWF and VSP.

We are losing a week of our main meetings in CCWF due to the CDCR requirement for Staff training, which occur on the first Wednesday of every month, which is the primary meeting scheduled time for the English-speaking meetings. However, this seems to encourage the AA activities in the unit meetings as well as the desire to participate with our IVSS sponsorship program. I received a call from a friend who is on the staff of this institution that we have lost the Warden there last week. This should not affect our program there, as we have a great CRM Department now who keep us updated and active. We have resumed the VAC meetings again, although I couldn't get into the last one—with some technical issues with an online meeting that I am not familiar with, and I couldn't manipulate it to allow me into the system! I have spoken with the CRM who will work with me, she indicates, to make sure that I am able to participate with the next meeting! (She tried to manipulate it during the meeting as well, but neither of us could outwit the "smart" system!)

We continue with the meetings in VSP as well, although they have been cut down quite a bit with the current scheduling of the CRM there. She seems to insist that the inside members should only participate with the main meetings for a 1-year time frame, and, as I understand, has created a very limited 12 week program for AA! And I continue to follow what has been established and works for me, with the belief that AA is a lifelong process of continuous learning and participation! So, I simply continue to do what I do, and suit up, and show up! Most of my communication is with our Staff Sponsors, our inside members, and the other staff that we deal directly with.

We continue to look for members to recruit to volunteer with us there and encourage others to join us. I have had some recent contacts, however, they have seemed to indicate that they are only available to participate on weekends, while our meetings occur during the week at this point.

CHCF Stockton, Melody T

Volunteer Update: One new volunteer has joined, and several others are applying. Interest in volunteering has increased. However, the online training is difficult to access. The facility now offers monthly on-site laptop sessions for training. Fingerprinting requires a separate visit.

Conference and Literature: A one-day conference is planned for October 24 to complete the Step Study started in May. Participants at the facility are eager to help. They are also reviewing stored literature left by people who were released. Some materials are old or missing pages and may have come from the DVI closure. The literature will be reviewed again on the first Saturday in October.

PI/CPC Committee: The Delta Intergroup PI/CPC Committee will take part in Suicide Prevention Week on September 22. The committee will answer questions about AA, especially from E Facility. Regular AA information presentations are encouraged so H&I meetings can remain focused on recovery.

CMF Vacaville, Danny K

At CMF Vacaville, we are in critical need of volunteers. We have added one new volunteer and lost two of the previous ones. All the volunteers go in by themselves. We currently have two nights covered on Wednesdays. Two nights covered on Thursdays and two days covered on Saturday mornings.

CTF Soledad, Alex S

Not much to report from CTF Soledad. We will be helping with the next one day workshop event 11/21 "Let's Step Together" focusing on steps 6-9. We have a Plain Language Big Book meeting every Tuesday night now which the guys are enjoying.

FCI Herlong, OPEN

FCI Mendota, OPEN

FSP Folsom, Jamie W

For the past year, the prison was not accepting new applications due to staff shortages and budget constraints. They have recently started accepting them again, and I am currently working through a backlog of applications.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can contact me to get started, though I may not be able to submit their paperwork immediately. For your records, our current volunteer meeting times are Monday nights, Friday nights, and Sunday mornings.

MCSP Mule Creek, Cecilia S

I was able to attend another meeting in E Yard/Chapel, at 3:00 pm on Wednesdays. There are approximately 40 people at this meeting. They loved getting AA Chips. I will make this meeting one of my regulars. I attended my regular meetings this month.

Nothing significant to report.

Literature renewals completed and taken to warehouse to be reviewed. Received another Literature Request from B Yard for more Spanish 12&12s. Have sent the request to the CRM Office for approval.

Completed my Yearly Renewal. All volunteer recruitment efforts are still on hold. The CRM office feels we have a sustainable number of volunteers and adding more is not a priority now. They would like to take care of our current volunteers first.

Napa State Hospital, Mark B

Two meetings were held in August and two were cancelled due to no escort available. Four meetings are scheduled for September. In addition, we have taken on one meeting per week that is held outside the secure area. This meeting is for conserved patients who reside in a separate building apart from the incarcerated patients. We are up and running with some additional volunteer secretaries. Combined we will now have eight meetings per month.

PBSP Pelican Bay, David R

PVSP Pleasant Valley Coalinga, Jeff S

CSP Sacramento, Josh S

SCC Jamestown, OPEN

SOL Solano, John D

SQ San Quentin, Curtis C

- There have been some challenges with getting all slots in the roster filled, with some volunteers covering double shifts. Especially challenging has been getting more Spanish-speaking AAs for the Saturday meeting.
- The CRO (Community Resource Office) has been delaying clearances and renewals, likely due to staffing shortage or volume.
- The COs at the Sally Port have only recently denied our literature privileges, with our approved/carry list, after years of bringing in AA literature. I am in the process of hashing this out with the CRO as this has been very frustrating.
- As always, more ***qualified*** volunteers are needed and welcome to apply to round out our coverage at SQ.

IVSS Program Report for October 2026

1) Central CA Women's Facility (CCWF) at Chowchilla. Leigh Ann M, Coordinator

We have 37 assigned matches and 5 unassigned matches, for a total of 42 prisoners being served. 2 of our 5 unassigned sponsees are awaiting Spanish-speaking sponsors and 6 new volunteers have been invited to an Orientation on Oct 8.

Currently we're experiencing no problems (except for needing Spanish-language sponsors), but the administration has not yet approved clearance for in-person visits. Thank You for allowing me to be of service.

2) **Corcoran, Avenal, SATF. Bill H, Coordinator**

We have 58 assigned matches and 23 unassigned matches for a total of 81 prisoners being served at Avenal & Corcoran; SATF is on hold until we can get more volunteers.

While we continue to be perpetually short on sponsors, this month we added three new sponsors from other IVSS institutions- THIS SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!! Phone services at some facilities are still not fully operational or reliable- some IP's depending on wall phones- which has delayed some in move from G-Voice or Hushed numbers to Slynumber.

At ASP- IVSS launched with English and Spanish groups on all active yards (F yard was closed and may be re-opening). Speaker Jam in April drove more applicants.

At Corcoran - IVSS launched with English groups only on 3A, 3B and 4B (only yards with active AA groups). Yard 3A may be reopening as a new California Model yard. 2nd Annual Speaker Jam tentatively planned for October 2026.

We just scheduled a meeting with the CRM at SATF for Oct 14 to proceed with launch. CRM agreed to proceed when we have sponsors available, however, she wants the apps to flow through her office to us. I hope to change her mind about that if possible.

The 2nd Annual Speaker Jam at COR is set for Oct 3 and 24.

Working with new sponsor candidate in China. Time zones, trouble with international calling, and lagging email responses have slowed down this progress. One Orientation was held on Sept. 3 new Sponsors to our team with previous experience- no orientation required.

Team Contributions

- Sponsors continue to assist with recruiting- we added our first Hawaiian sponsor this month!
- Bob continues to perform orientations and has been able to orient everyone on our roster! He also sends notifications to incarcerated applicants. Also serves as a sponsor and participant in our Speaker Jam events.
- Bill: recruiting, quarterly check ins with assigned sponsors, providing orientations, monthly reports, is a regular visiting volunteer, transition support for 2 new MIC's, attends VAC meetings, serves on Speaker Jam event committee. Serves as a sponsor at CTF Soledad.

Awareness & Outreach Efforts

- Efforts to recruit continue, and we see continued growth in sponsors. Still have much to do. With Kristen's help, we expanded our Speaker Jam events to include a 1st Annual event at SATF and the completion of our 2nd annual events at Avenal and Corcoran this year!
- Planning for 3rd Annual Speaker Jam at Avenal is beginning. This vehicle is slowly aiding our efforts to recruit visiting volunteers and IVSS Sponsors and advocates.

Process Improvements & Challenges

Quarterly check ins continue to ensure engagement, navigate tech and comm issues and serve as an opportunity to invite sponsors to assist with recruiting and consider taking on additional sponsees. The team has responded and helped us to grow the number of served incarcerated.

3) CA Health Care Facility (CHCF), Dave T Coordinator

Dave is currently about halfway through his Coordinator training. So far, we have 3 volunteers awaiting Orientation (yay!) and there will be an inside conference in October where we'll hand out the prisoner brochures. Dave is off to a solid start and will be a fantastic Coordinator for this new effort.

4) Folsom SP, Joe A Coordinator

We are sponsoring 23 guys, with 22 on the waitlist, for a total of 45 inside members being served. We're doing an orientation in 2 weeks & hope to have 7 guys. The last orientation 4 said they were coming and one showed up but he is sponsoring now.

5) CTF Soledad & Salinas Valley SP, Dave R, Coordinator

We are sponsoring 17 guys, with 2 on the waitlist, for a total of 19 inside members being served.

Preparing for the 1st orientation of new CTF volunteers, recruiting at Intergroup & meetings.

No activity at SVSP as they currently aren't conducting meetings at the facility.

6) San Quentin SP, Max V, Coordinator

We are sponsoring 110 guys, with 1 on the waitlist, for a total of 111 inside members being served. We currently have 0 available sponsors but hope to orient a couple in the next week or so. We're looking for Spanish-speaking sponsors with Ramiro's help, and Dave Stone continues to be of major help as the Assistant Coordinator.

TOTAL IVSS MATCHED SPONSEES 245, TOTAL SPONSEES ON WAITLIST 53, TOTAL BEING SERVED 298.

WE CONTINUE TO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MEET THE DEMAND, SO PLEASE HELP BY ANNOUNCING IT AT YOUR AREA MEETINGS AND PASSING OUT THE FLYERS.

Officer & Liaison Reports October 2026

SoCal H&I liaison James Canter

Things are going well in SoCal. They are busy putting together this year's conference, and are migrating their information to a new website—HANDISOCAL.ORG. I will have more information about this from their next business meeting later this month.

My reports to SoCal H & I included a general statement of our current financial status, and a pitch for the IVSS program, stating it is going very well and we are actively seeking those who would sponsor someone in prisons, with an emphasis on needing Spanish-speaking volunteers. I invited comments and suggestions.

CNCA liaison report James Canter

Not much to report from CNCA except things are going well. They continue to discuss implementing QR code that links to a simple and consistent message about AA's primary purpose and are gearing up for elections later this year. The new edition of the Big Book is coming out by next spring.

My report to CNCA mentioned:

- Our IVSS program, stating it is going very well and we are actively seeking those who would sponsor someone in prisons, with an emphasis on needing Spanish-speaking volunteers. I invited comments and suggestions.

General questions submitted by area members:

- Continued inquiries about the possibility of a Spanish translation of the PLBB, and if something like this is a possibility.
- More information about the policy of 2 people at each meeting, some are finding it difficult to find in our policies & procedures.

NorCal H&I Committee
Financial Report
September, 2026

INCOME AND EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

	Sep 26	Jan - Sep 26
Income		
Area Contributions		
Check Contribution	37,634.35	334,033.47
Online Contributions	20,306.56	196,976.76
Total Income	57,940.91	531,010.23
Literature Expense		
AAWS	41,197.08	429,233.01
Grapevine & La Vina	289.80	67,413.86
Meeting Directories	166.12	577.21
Storage Unit Rent Expense	492.00	2,438.20
Total Literature Expense	42,145.00	499,662.28
Other Expense		
Accounting	0.00	1,100.00
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	0.00	32,611.05
Bank Charges	0.04	119.86
Insurance	0.00	1,525.00
NorCal Committee	1,180.80	6,181.64
NorCal IVSS Program	327.00	1,127.74
Office Supplies	0.00	21.93
Postage	113.54	1,504.71
Printing Costs	0.00	6,299.11
Processor Fees	651.04	6,242.99
Virtual Meeting Expense	0.00	324.80
Website Expense	936.88	936.88
Total Other Expense	3,209.30	57,995.71
Total Literature and Other Expense	45,354.30	557,657.99
Income Less Total Expense	12,586.61	(26,647.76)
Beginning Cash Balance	312,186.82	351,421.19
Ending Cash Balance	324,773.43	324,773.43

**Recommended Cash on Hand	307,708.44
Cash in Bank	324,773.43
Above or Below Recommendation	17,064.99

**Recommended Cash on Hand = Prior year average monthly expense x 6. 2025 average monthly expense was $51,284.74

Literature Expense % Total Expense	89.6%
Value of Lit on Hand =	6,783.65

CONTRIBUTIONS BY AREA

	Sep 26	Jan - Sep 26
02, Del Norte	403.00	1,173.63
03, Siskiyou	166.50	1,169.58
04, Humboldt	442.71	5,118.88
11/12, Modoc/Lassen	0.00	402.88
140, Spanish North Int	653.69	2,003.33
16, Shasta	2,088.42	17,964.43
160, Spanish N Coast	43.00	459.50
161, Spanish (Area) Santa Rosa	0.00	0.00
17, Tehama	83.46	1,132.64
170, Spanish S Coast	0.00	1,058.20
18, Trinity	0.00	254.09
180, Spanish Central Int	27.00	469.80
190, Spanish South Int	0.00	2,389.02
21, Mendocino	38.33	1,563.23
22, Sonoma	4,004.79	44,324.54
23, Lake	905.54	4,461.42
31, Butte/Glenn	2,356.29	13,554.22
32, Plumas	240.00	888.59
34, Placer	2,876.90	23,317.32
36, Sierra/Nevada	3,332.10	10,441.96
42, Sacramento/Yolo	3,474.52	38,328.47
43, El Dorado	551.60	6,826.57
44, Amador	333.26	2,089.43
45, Sutter/Colusa/Yuba	198.65	5,711.36
51, Napa	144.23	10,527.58
52, Contra Costa	3,540.50	37,568.24
53, Alameda	5,995.89	56,029.06
54, Solano	688.93	9,485.55
61, Marin	5,586.91	34,525.71
62, San Francisco	3,285.16	38,260.42
65, San Mateo	2,319.99	26,257.76
71, Santa Clara	5,810.87	45,213.66
72, Monterey	1,129.01	8,336.41
73, Santa Cruz	808.00	22,393.00
74, San Benito	121.40	1,744.30
81, Stanislaus	1,555.17	7,937.17
82, San Joaquin	464.82	6,252.55
83, Tuolumne	383.47	4,208.99
84, Calaveras	8.97	1,077.27
86, Merced	25.00	1,074.35
91, Mariposa/Madera	435.71	2,726.59
92, Fresno	2,386.02	23,691.80
93, Tulare	950.79	7,603.23
95, Kings	80.31	511.68
Out of the Area Contribution	0.00	336.00
Unidentified Contributor	0.00	145.82
Total	57,940.91	531,010.23

Please direct questions to the Treasurer at treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com

NorCal H&I Committee
Financial Report
August, 2026

INCOME AND EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

	Aug 26	Jan - Aug 26
Income		
Area Contributions		
Check Contribution	32,097.62	296,399.12
Online Contributions	18,531.98	176,670.20
Total Income	50,629.60	473,069.32
Literature Expense		
AAWS	35,252.52	388,035.93
Grapevine & La Vina	12,909.38	67,124.06
Meeting Directories	0.00	411.09
Storage Unit Rent Expense	0.00	1,946.20
Total Literature Expense	48,161.90	457,517.28
Other Expense		
Accounting	0.00	1,100.00
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	0.00	32,611.05
Bank Charges	21.74	119.82
Insurance	0.00	1,525.00
NorCal Committee	105.15	5,000.84
NorCal IVSS Program	0.00	800.74
Office Supplies	0.00	21.93
Postage	738.59	1,391.17
Printing Costs	0.00	6,299.11
Processor Fees	587.56	5,591.95
Virtual Meeting Expense	0.00	324.80
Total Other Expense	1,453.04	54,786.41
Total Literature and Other Expense	49,614.94	512,303.69
Income Less Total Expense	1,014.66	(39,234.37)
Beginning Cash Balance	311,172.16	351,421.19
Ending Cash Balance	312,186.82	312,186.82

**Recommended Cash on Hand	307,708.44
Cash in Bank	312,186.82
Above or Below Recommendation	4,478.38

**Recommended Cash on Hand = Prior year average monthly expense x 6. 2025 average monthly expense was $51,284.74

Literature Expense % Total Expense	89.3%
Value of Lit on Hand =	6,046.85

CONTRIBUTIONS BY AREA

	Aug 26	Jan - Aug 26
02, Del Norte	0.00	770.63
03, Siskiyou	191.54	1,003.08
04, Humboldt	378.36	4,676.17
11/12, Modoc/Lassen	0.00	402.88
140, Spanish North Int	270.00	1,349.64
16, Shasta	1,145.31	15,876.01
160, Spanish N Coast	0.00	416.50
161, Spanish (Area) Santa Rosa		
17, Tehama	107.00	1,049.18
170, Spanish S Coast	84.00	1,058.20
18, Trinity	0.00	254.09
180, Spanish Central Int	30.00	442.80
190, Spanish South Int	382.77	2,389.02
21, Mendocino	145.06	1,524.90
22, Sonoma	3,473.01	40,319.75
23, Lake	886.08	3,555.88
31, Butte/Glenn	682.33	11,197.93
32, Plumas	648.59	648.59
34, Placer	2,148.89	20,440.42
36, Sierra/Nevada	69.00	7,109.86
42, Sacramento/Yolo	3,975.35	34,853.95
43, El Dorado	42.35	6,274.97
44, Amador	371.71	1,756.17
45, Sutter/Colusa/Yuba	756.74	5,512.71
51, Napa	1,279.57	10,383.35
52, Contra Costa	3,844.31	34,027.74
53, Alameda	8,600.04	50,033.17
54, Solano	837.91	8,796.62
61, Marin	4,010.07	28,938.80
62, San Francisco	2,613.75	34,975.26
65, San Mateo	1,444.40	23,937.77
71, Santa Clara	5,812.25	39,402.79
72, Monterey	889.02	7,207.40
73, Santa Cruz	10.00	21,585.00
74, San Benito	141.00	1,622.90
81, Stanislaus	336.67	6,382.00
82, San Joaquin	1,324.82	5,787.73
83, Tuolumne	0.00	3,825.52
84, Calaveras	0.00	1,068.30
86, Merced	0.00	1,049.35
91, Mariposa/Madera	149.16	2,290.88
92, Fresno	2,861.68	21,305.78
93, Tulare	622.33	6,652.44
95, Kings	64.53	431.37
Out of the Area Contribution	0.00	336.00
Unidentified Contributor	0.00	145.82
Total	50,629.60	473,069.32

Please direct questions to the Treasurer at treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com

NorCal H&I Committee
Financial Report
July, 2026

INCOME AND EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

	Jul 26	Jan - Jul 26
Income		
Area Contributions		
Check Contribution	42,399.41	264,301.50
Online Contributions	32,914.80	158,138.22
Total Income	75,314.21	422,439.72
Literature Expense		
AAWS	54,056.17	352,783.41
Grapevine & La Vina	2,082.10	54,214.68
Meeting Directories	0.00	411.09
Storage Unit Rent Expense	0.00	1,946.20
Total Literature Expense	56,138.27	409,355.38
Other Expense		
Accounting	0.00	1,100.00
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	-497.10	32,611.05
Bank Charges	47.28	98.08
Insurance	0.00	1,525.00
NorCal Committee	937.50	4,895.69
NorCal IVSS Program	141.72	800.74
Office Supplies	0.00	21.93
Postage	0.00	652.58
Printing Costs	829.28	6,299.11
Processor Fees	1,037.10	5,004.39
Virtual Meeting Expense	0.00	324.80
Total Other Expense	2,495.78	53,333.37
Total Literature and Other Expense	58,634.05	462,688.75
Income Less Total Expense	16,680.16	(40,249.03)
Beginning Cash Balance	294,492.00	351,421.19
Ending Cash Balance	311,172.16	311,172.16

**Recommended Cash on Hand	307,708.44
Cash in Bank	311,172.16
Above or Below Recommendation	3,463.72

**Recommended Cash on Hand = Prior year average monthly expense x 6. 2025 average monthly expense was $51,284.74

Literature Expense % Total Expense	88.5%
Value of Lit on Hand =	6,098.88

CONTRIBUTIONS BY AREA

	Jul 26	Jan - Jul 26
02, Del Norte	50.00	770.63
03, Siskiyou	75.58	811.54
04, Humboldt	674.70	4,297.81
11/12, Modoc/Lassen	76.06	402.88
140, Spanish North Int	30.00	1,079.64
16, Shasta	2,408.45	14,730.70
160, Spanish N Coast	47.00	416.50
161, Spanish (Area) Santa Rosa	0.00	0.00
17, Tehama	129.00	942.18
170, Spanish S Coast	360.00	974.20
18, Trinity	254.09	254.09
180, Spanish Central Int	20.40	412.80
190, Spanish South Int	323.14	2,006.25
21, Mendocino	336.11	1,379.84
22, Sonoma	5,877.50	36,846.74
23, Lake	256.99	2,669.80
31, Butte/Glenn	2,179.25	10,515.60
32, Plumas	0.00	0.00
34, Placer	2,421.37	18,291.53
36, Sierra/Nevada	1,319.69	7,040.86
42, Sacramento/Yolo	5,482.43	30,878.60
43, El Dorado	1,307.01	6,232.62
44, Amador	195.48	1,384.46
45, Sutter/Colusa/Yuba	1,064.64	4,755.97
51, Napa	2,185.07	9,103.78
52, Contra Costa	6,712.15	30,183.43
53, Alameda	3,817.71	41,433.13
54, Solano	1,029.09	7,958.71
61, Marin	3,679.93	24,928.73
62, San Francisco	8,281.55	32,361.51
65, San Mateo	4,380.49	22,493.37
71, Santa Clara	5,297.99	33,590.54
72, Monterey	1,426.22	6,318.38
73, Santa Cruz	7,825.84	21,575.00
74, San Benito	202.25	1,481.90
81, Stanislaus	903.68	6,045.33
82, San Joaquin	285.54	4,462.91
83, Tuolumne	778.79	3,825.52
84, Calaveras	168.51	1,068.30
86, Merced	298.57	1,049.35
91, Mariposa/Madera	100.00	2,141.72
92, Fresno	2,172.84	18,444.10
93, Tulare	879.10	6,030.11
95, Kings	0.00	366.84
Out of the Area Contribution	0.00	336.00
Unidentified Contributor	0.00	145.82
Total	75,314.21	422,439.72

Please direct questions to the Treasurer at treasurernorcalhandi@gmail.com

2027 Proposed Budget

	Jan - Aug 26	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Rationale	Proposed Budget	Budget Rationale
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income			projection unless		
Area Contributions					
Check Contributions	296,399.12	466,826.69	Used LY Sept - Dec + 10%	502,305.00	
Online Contributions	176,670.20	255,962.46	Used LY Sept - Dec + 10%	275,415.00	
Total Area Contributions	473,069.32	722,789.14		**777,720.00**	proj YE + 7.6% (incr over Aug
Expense					
Literature Expense					
AAWS					
AAWS Books & Materials	385,000.00	575,585.20	Used LY Sept - Dec + 38%. Current 12 mo cost $534.5K; $540K seems more reasonable.	577,800.00	per Lit Chair no incr book prices, shipping but **new BB wb $3 higher than 4th Ed (20% incr)**. Current av CPM 18.72. Assuming 1) n/c in # of mtgs or mtg Lit usage, 2) lower YE Lit exp of $540, incr in BB price (at
AAWS Lit Distrib. & Supplies					
Distribution-Packing Supplies	72.27	108.41		150.00	
H&I Lit Stamps	447.93	671.90		700.00	
Shipping & Freight	2,300.79	3,451.19		3,500.00	per Lit Chair no incr in USPS
Stamp Pad & Ink	214.94	322.41		350.00	
Total AAWS Lit Distrib. & Supplies	3,035.93	4,553.90		4,700.00	
Total AAWS	388,035.93	580,139.10		582,500.00	
Grapevine & La Vina					
1 Grapevine subscriptions	40,614.00	60,921.00	36,000 pcs/yr	72,000.00	proj cost @ $2 * 36K pieces
2 LaVina subscriptions	14,553.00	21,829.50		22,500.00	price incr wb largely offset by reduction in volume
3 GV/LV subscription freight	4,050.00	6,075.00		5,500.00	poss savings due to change in fulfillment system & lower order #'s
GV & LV other - books	7,907.06	11,860.59		5,000.00	restrict to major institutions only
Total Grapevine & La Vina	67,124.06	100,686.09		105,000.00	
Meeting Directories	411.09	616.64		500.00	less demand due to AA Mtg app
Storage Unit Rent Expense	1,946.20	2,438.20	164/mo	2,132.00	per Lit Chair, 164 Jan/Feb 10% incr to 180.40 Mar-Dec, higher TY bc larger unit few mos
Total - Literature Expense	457,517.28	683,880.02		690,132.00	89.8% total committee projected expense
Accounting					
Accountant Fees	1,000.00	1,000.00	One time	1,200.00	
Taxes	100.00	100.00	One Time	100.00	
Total Accounting	1,100.00	1,100.00		1,300.00	
Area Expenses - 5% PY Cont.	32,611.05	32,611.05	One Time	38,886.00	per formula
Bank Charges	119.82	179.73		200.00	
Equipment, New					
Technology	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total Equipment, New	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Insurance	1,525.00		One Time		

2027 Proposed Budget (Continued)

	Jan - Aug 26	Projected Year End	Projected Year End Rationale	Proposed Budget	Budget Rationale
NorCal Committee					
Archives Rental	2,250.00	3,000.00	250/mo	3,000.00	per Archives Chair n/c
Meeting Room Rental	704.61	705.00	Only 1 hybrid per year	705.00	
NorCal - Lodging, meals, other	512.93	2,749.61	Used LY Sept - Dec + 26%	2,750.00	
NorCal - Travel Mileage & Tolls	594.10	2,524.79	Used LY Sept - Dec + 26%	2,525.00	
Software		0.00		0.00	
Translation/Interpretation	939.20	1,408.80		1,410.00	
Total NorCal Committee	5,000.84	10,388.19		10,390.00	
NorCal IVSS Program					
IVSS Supplies	182.02	305.90	Used LY Sept - Dec + 26%	300.00	
IVSS Zoom exp	0.00	0.00	Used LY Sept - Dec + 26%	340.00	new Pro accts $170/yr but most already have own; budget 2
PO Box IVSS	612.00	918.00		950.00	poss 3% incr in 2027
IVSS Video Project				500.00	pay videographer $250/change, CDCR in flux w/ digital provider,
Stamps IVSS	6.72	10.08		10.00	n/c most communication
Total NorCal IVSS Program	800.74	1,233.98		2,100.00	
Office Supplies					
Copy Paper		0.00		0.00	
Ink Cartridges		0.00		0.00	
Office Supplies	21.93	32.90		50.00	
Total Office Supplies	21.93	32.90		50.00	
Postage					
Misc. Committee Shipping	203.17	304.76		305.00	
Post Office Box	524.00	524.00	One Time	560.00	
Premium Forwarding Service	500.00	500.00		500.00	
Stamps	164.00	164.00	Have Enough	164.00	
Total Postage	1,391.17	1,492.76		1,529.00	
Printing Costs					
Envelopes	0.00	0.00		500.00	
20 Questions	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Check Printing	91.03	91.03	Have Enough	100.00	
Misc. Printing	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Newsletters	6,208.08	9,312.12		3,600.00	$900/qtr based on electronic
Pink Cans	0.00	1,000.00	Need to Order	0.00	place order 2026, no new
Policy Manuals	0.00	0.00		9,000.00	12.5% incr over 2025 PM cost 8K
Recovery Cards, Yellow, Blue	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total Printing Costs	6,299.11	10,403.15		13,200.00	
Processor Fees	5,591.95	8,190.80		8,813.28	formula
Virtual Meeting Expense	324.80	487.20		340.00	
Website Expense	0.00	2,500.00		1,500.00	
Total Expense	512,303.69	752,499.77		768,440.28	
Net Ordinary Income	-39,234.37	-29,710.63		9,279.72	
Net Income	**-39,234.37**	**-29,710.63**		**9,279.72**	**proj 2026 YE monthly exp 62,705 raises 6 mo cash reserve goal for 2027 to 376,230. As of Aug '26, cash in bank was 312,187, meaning there would be a 64K shortfal to be in**

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.

H&I Roster

The NorCal Committee Roster is now available by request.
To request a copy, please email either
Joe N. at chairnorcalhandi@gmail.com or Jude H. at norcalhanipublisher@gmail.com.

NCCAA
77th Annual
Fall Conference

Northern California Council of Alcoholics Anonymous

"Carrying the Message" Since 1947!

Fresno, CA

DoubleTree by Hilton

2233 Ventura St, Fresno, CA 93721

October 9, 10 & 11, 2026

Friday October 9, 2026	Saturday October 10, 2026	Sunday October 11, 2026
2:00 PM Registration Opens 5:00 PM Long Timer's Panel 8:00 PM Open Speaker Meeting	8:00 AM – Steering Committee 11:00 AM – NCCAA Delegates 8:00 PM Open Speaker Meeting	8:00 AM Meditation Meeting 10:00 AM Open Speaker Meeting
Sheldon F. **Las Vegas, NV**	**Todd J.** **Idyllwild, CA** **YP SPEAKER**	**Olis S.** **Oakland, CA**
Additional program information on back of flyer		

Al-Anon and Spanish Speakers & Participation
Area Updates – Marathon Meetings
Saturday Night Dance
Free Drawing
Sunday Morning Meditation Meeting

Scan for Registration

Visit NCCAA website for more information on how to be of Service to NCCAA.

NCCAA Website
norcalaa.org

PRE-REGISTRATION CUT OFF DATE IS SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
CONFERENCE RATE FOR HOTEL CUT OFF DATE IS SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

PRE-REGISTRATION - $35.00 (per person) - AT THE CONFERENCE - $40.00

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT --http://www.norcalaa.org

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