

BEHIND THE WALLS IN VERMONT

AREA 70 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
April 2009



More Payday

“The meeting in our local prison was moving along as usual, but we noticed one rather intense fellow just taking in the sharing. Finally, he raised his hand during a long pause and blurted out how frightened he was to be here. Not in jail, but at an A.A. meeting! For the last three weeks he couldn’t get up the courage to walk into our meeting room. He knew little of A.A., but knew how unmanagable his life was. The sharing from his fellows gave him the guts to raise his hand and talk about his life situation and the role booze had in it. His fellow A.A.s encouraged him to come back next week. It was wonderful to be at a meeting where a gent first admitted his alcoholism. We all identified with the fear factor of facing our booze problem, and honestly sharing about it.”

Woodstock Fellowship Group’s Jailbox



“The Woodstock Fellowship Group had a group conscience and decided to have a Jailbox at their three weekly meetings. I emailed the Corrections Committee and requested a Jailbox label, which was immediately sent via email. They also asked if we would take a photo of it just for “show and tell.”

The need for literature in our prisons is continuous. There are days and weeks where A.A.s behind the walls don’t see an outside member, and have no meetings. Inmates have no access to purchasing literature, so they rely on you to bring them the message. Please consider asking your home group or meetings to provide a Jailbox for their members, so they can contribute any hardcover, softcover, pamphlets, and Grapevines. The need for Big Books and 12 & 12s is especially needed. Please call or email the Corrections Chair for Jailbox or Jailcan labels. Or go online to aavt.org, the Corrections page and print them out yourselves.

At first we thought the Corrections Chair had gone off asking for pictures of a box. But of course we, just off a little ourselves, decided to use a new phone, snap a photo, and email

it for the cause. We are also sharing this with the GSR of the Twin State Group over in White River Junction. So now the eastern side of the state is getting their props.” *HDB, Woodstock Fellowship Group*

“I thought some might be tired of my Corrections announcements at the end of every meeting I attend. But I’ve kept it up anyway. It is starting to pay off. At my home group, a fellow asked if he could go into the jail with me. I explained the process, and he filled out the forms. In our local facility, we can get someone in about 5 times while the forms are being processed. It was his first time doing this 12 Step work. That same week another A.A. member on the outside completed his application, and we’re planning to go in another night of the week. Maybe we can keep adding “A.A. volunteers” and we can keep our commitment filled. It struck me how I get to do two good lifesaving deeds: one, bringing meetings into the fellows on the inside, and two, sharing this 12 step work with sober fellows on the outside.” Doubly blessed

“Our Sunday night meeting has a set format: Steps 1, 2, 3, and the fourth Sunday we pick another topic. Two weeks ago, we read the pamphlet Twelve Questions. We read each one and shared on it. Just because some of the fellows had little or no time, they were able to honestly answer these questions. One fellow laughingly bragged ‘Yup, that’s me!’ But after the 8th or 9th question, his humor waned. He was now more serious when he stated that he was going for a perfect score. Now the humor was hollow and uncomfortable. And the other guys in the room wouldn’t let him off the hook either. After the meeting ended, he hung around to talk one on one. He asked ‘Do you think I can get sober?’ It was a question born of frustration, yet hope. I was there to say ‘Yes’.” A Believer

The Northern Vermont Area 70 Corrections Workshop

Saturday, June 6th, 2009, 12:30 to 4:00 • St. Michael School, Montpelier VT

A Flyer Is Here With Full Information

Prerelease Contact/Correspondence Card Reaches North Carolina

"Hi, I'm a Panel 40 past delegate from VT.

Greetings from Weaverville NC. I was reading Area 70 meeting minutes and was pleasantly struck by how well the area has grown and how well the service structure appears to be functioning. My thanks and congratulations to you and all the members who make this happen.

I was on the Corrections Committee when I was a delegate and have stayed in this niche of service here in NC. I'm part of the district Corrections Committee and bring a meeting to a correctional facility in the area weekly. I'm also able to take inmates to outside meetings weekly. I am interested in the prerelease service cards mentioned in your report. I think something like that could work well here. Would you please send me a sample card either via e-mail or snail mail? *Of course we sent him a dozen cards, & emailed him the print ready file for their use..*

Looking For My Sponsee:

An A.A. member in District 2 emailed and asked us to hook him up with his sponsee who was moved to Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield. We forwarded his email to Margery Reurink, the Volunteer Coordinator there and started the ball rolling. We also gave him the District 8 DCM's, telephone number. We'll follow up and see if they could meet.

A LOOK AT A.A. FROM THE PROFESSIONAL SIDE: "Alcoholics Anonymous within corrections provides a viable, time tested and feasible plan of self-help for the alcoholic inmate. It also gives the correctional administrator a constructive tool in regard to security and management issues." The opening statement in the Registration Packet, Marble Valley Regional Correction Facility in District 6, written by John Cassarino, the Volunteer Coordinator. Yes, we know it works. It really does.

Sy From Lakewood, Washington Is Back In Vermont! And looking for a meeting.

Sy has 39 years of continuous sobriety and decades of corrections service work experience. We'll try to get him into a Vermont jail, but this time as a guest. But that is a whole other story! Maybe he'll write a Payday article for us.

Thanks, District Nine, for giving us an impromptu invitation to present Corrections 12 Step Work at your

monthly District Meeting. Both a Prerelease and a Correspondence form were filled out. Please invite us to your

next District event, where we can share our Corrections work with your members.

JAILBOX AND JAILCAN IN District 8: The District 8 Corrections Chair, contacted us and asked how she could get the contributions from Jailcans and books from the Jailboxes into Southern State in Springfield. We emailed her and Margery Reurink, previously mentioned, at Southern State Correctional Facility. With the Volunteer Coordinators help, She was able to bring the contributions to the A.A.s behind the walls.

Inmate to Inmate books are available at no charge. Someone requested these books. We are bringing 10 to our Preconference for the inmates at Southern State. Yes, we deliver!

Following Directions: from one of the State Volunteer Coordinators:

"Just a reminder – there is no physical contact allowed between residents. Physical contact can be anything from holding hands, embracing each other, hands on another's shoulder, etc. If you witness such behavior during one of your activities, the behavior needs to be addressed. Thank you for your help with this matter – we are trying to be consistent and we do realize that some are using the volunteer led activities as a place to attempt to get away with these types of behavior. Thanks again." **We are guests of the facilities where we volunteer, and are subject to their rules and regulations. Rules may be different from facility to facility. If you are not sure of the rules where you volunteer, ask for help and "clear cut directions."**

"We need help...your articles, experiences, and participation.." For a copy or pdf of this newsletter, past issues, and Committee Reports, please call, mail or email the Corrections Chair: PO Box 32, Bomoseen, VT 05732

Email: area70corrections@yahoo.com