

BEHIND THE WALLS IN VERMONT

AREA 70 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
January 2009



MORE PAYDAY.....

“Banging on the outer door interrupted us from going into the meeting in our jail. The guard opened the door and a woman said the hotline sent her, she had less than three months sobriety, and she’d drink if she didn’t get to a meeting. I hustled over and told her this was a men’s facility and a closed meeting for inmates and approved volunteers only. Just then, my wife appeared, and was told of the situation. The two ladies huddled and my wife came back and said they were going to a diner, as there was no local Sunday night meeting. We didn’t even discuss it, as it was obvious there were two twelve step jobs to be done that night: one inside the walls and one outside the walls.” Marble Valley A.A.s

“We had just spent a long day at the December Full Area Assembly in Pittsford (yes we get to all Assemblies early to help the districts set up and leave late after helping with the cleanup) but were determined to go to the jail meeting that night. My buddy had been approved previously to attend this meeting, even though he hadn’t gone through the full application process, including orientation. When we arrived and signed in, a new guard wouldn’t allow him in, as there was no i.d. badge for him. Even after an accurate explanation of the process and agreement we had with the Volunteer Coordinator for that facility, the guard still wouldn’t budge---no badge, no entry. Without a second thought, my buddy instructed me to go in alone, just asked where there was a diner around where he could hang out for an hour plus. How graciously he realized the message being carried that night into the jail was more important than his ego or attendance. Without a ruffled feather, he left and came back an hour and a half later to pick me up. It was a successful night. Neither the inmates, me, or him drank” Impressed With My Buddy

I normally don’t go to the Tuesday Night Men’s Meeting but went with a friend whose company I’ve always enjoyed. Afterwards, a lad walked over and introduced himself as a recently released inmate with almost six months sober time. He thanked me for my past efforts at the jail and said he planned on volunteering after his one year “incident free” time period expired. Talk about Payback!” An A.A. Volunteer

“At the end of meetings, when they call for announcements, I always ask for volunteers to help bring meetings into our local facility. Well, after four years all three meetings in our local jail are covered. Our district doesn’t have a corrections chair, so there is no one to coordinate these efforts. I already have a service job. Just because I don’t have to go inside the walls so often doesn’t mean my corrections service work is done.” The Coordinator

CORRECTIONS INVENTORY: At the December Full Area Assembly, the Correction Committee took it’s inventory. We looked at our 2008 Goals. Next month we’ll report on how we did, and the goals we set for 2009.

SPRING CORRECTIONS WORKSHOP IN NORTHERN VERMONT: We are waiting for a district to step up and host our upcoming workshop. The corrections committee will fund it, but we need a meeting place and volunteers “to make it happen.” Please talk to the DCMs in District 2 or District 5 and let them explain how easy it is to help your corrections committee hold this event for A.A.s Inside and Outside.

AREA 70 CONVENTION: We will have a Corrections Committee display at the May Convention (yes, I’ve registered.) It is our commitment to be at every Area function, with literature and info as to how we carry the message into corrections facilities. We also volunteer to be at any district or group event. But as always, we need help to cover these commitments. Please step up and give us a hand.

TRANSITION AT NORTHWEST STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY: *The transition of all female inmates to this facility in St. Albans has been completed. The Corrections Chair and other A.A. volunteers*

will be meeting in early February with members of the VT Dep't. of Corrections to discuss the continuing efforts of local long time volunteers and the need for more female volunteers in this facility.

Below is the Agenda for the....

**Presentation to
Vermont Department of Corrections Volunteer Coordinators
January 14th, 2009**

DVD "Message to Correction Professionals" & Presentations to Corrections Professionals

Universal Application and Universal Clearance

Prerelease Contact Program (PCP)

- Inside • Outside

Correspondence Service (CS)

- Inside • Outside

Proposed PCP/CS Info Card and Seeking Your Cooperation

Literature Enclosed and Available

- Pamphlets For The Corrections Professional Staff:
A.A. In Correctional Facilities (P-26), A.A. In Your Community (P-31),
Carrying the A.A. Message Into Correctional Facilities (F-5),
Problems Other Than Alcohol (p-35, F-8),
The A.A. Group (P-16), Twelve Steps Illustrated (P-55), Twelve Traditions Illustrated (P-43),
Understanding Anonymity (P-47),
Please see the enclosed sheet "Literature Guide", that lists other info available by category:
For Inmates, For Youth, For Professional Staff, A.A. Corr. Committee Workers,
Audio Tapes, Films/Videos, & Magazines.
How To Order Literature From A.A. World Services:
Tel 212-870-3312, Fax 800-437-3584, & Request a Literature Catalog (F-10)
- "Behind The Walls In Vermont" Area 70 Corrections Newsletter

Contacting Alcoholics Anonymous:

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office 212. 87.3312, www.aa.org

Alcoholics Anonymous Area 70 Vermont: www.aavt.org

Area 70 Vermont 2009 Corrections Chair, area70corrections@yahoo.com

The Volunteer Coordinators (VCs) allotted our Presentation 15 minutes, followed by a short Q & A session. At the start we agreed that questions could be posed anytime. We began at ten A.M. and ended at 11:45!

We spoke of our newest DVD and scheduling future workshops to their Corrections Personnel in the eight facilities. The VCs will be contacted individually to schedule these presentations.

Both the Prerelease Contact Program and the Correspondence Service forms and pamphlets were read and explained, especially the responsibilities of the A.A.s on the Outside and the opportunities for the A.A.s on the Inside. Both Programs were eagerly accepted. Our committee offered to provide unlimited "business cards" with a short explanation of both programs; the VCs unanimously pledged their support to make the cards available throughout their facilities. Our committee again offered to provide the forms for the Inside A.A.s, but the VCs suggested we just send "originals" and they would gladly make copies and dispense them throughout their facilities. Cooperation.

Each received a presentation folder with the nine pamphlets listed above (and an Area Meeting List) which are available for their staff and the Inside A.A.s. We discussed these pamphlets and the Corrections "Literature Guide," a sheet that lists suggested pamphlets, soft & hardcover books, audio tapes, films, magazines (Grapevine), CDs, and newsletters they can purchase. Our committee will also send a Literature Catalog, a few past issues of our newsletter "Behind The Walls In Vermont" (future issues will be emailed), along with an individualized thank you letter. What a wonderful morning spent with "Our Friends" in the corrections field!

"We need help...your articles, experiences, and participation."

*For a copy or pdf of this newsletter, past issues, and Committee Reports, please mail or email the Corrections Chair:
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