

BEHIND THE WALLS IN VERMONT

AREA 70 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
March 2009



MORE PAYDAY.....

because of the short span between the February and March issues, we will forego the March More Payday. Do you have a short story you'd like to share?

Correction Committee Goals for 2009

1. Attend all Area Committee Meetings and Full Area Assemblies, including our committee meeting
2. Attend NERAASA, the Area 70 Vermont Convention (with displays and information) , & the Forum
3. Communicate Corrections info & encourage participation thru this "Behind the Walls" Newsletter
4. Attend District Committee Meetings & Roundups and make presentations when requested
5. Encourage the use of the Area 70 Vermont Jailbox and Jailcan
6. Make presentations at all the Vermont Department of Corrections Facilities
7. Support the Districts in their 12 Step Corrections work
8. Encourage participation in the Corrections Correspondence Service & Prerelease Contact Program
9. Provide a Correspondence Service/Prerelease Contact Program card to every inmate in Vermont
10. Hold two Corrections Workshops, or Conferences, or Roundups
11. Seek District Corrections Chair participation in this committee and Area 70
12. Effectively Carry the Message into Correctional Facilities in Area 70
13. Listen to the needs of the Area and respond accordingly

What did we miss? What else should we be doing? Let us know how we can better carry the message.

The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly / NERAASA 2009:

Area 28, Maine hosted this year's NERAASA in Portland. As always, the event gave us the opportunity to hear members of A.A. make presentations on the various Agenda items that will be reviewed at the 2009 General Service Conference in April in New York City. I had the privilege of presenting the topic "Where Rotation and Spirituality Mix." An important reason for me, your corrections chair, to attend was to participate in the Corrections Roundtable that was held both Friday and Saturday nights. They started at 9:15, and ended at 10:45, but went later. The correction chairs shared their successes and roadblocks in carrying the message in and outside the walls. Many of our situations are common. However, I learned how fortunate we are in Vermont to have a Department of Corrections that cooperates so well to permit us inside the walls. Other areas face difficulties we in Vermont do not face. The Prerelease Contact Program was another topic of much discussion. A common thread among all 25 members who participated was the realization of how much more work there is to do.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES INSIDE THE WALLS:

The Vermont Department of Corrections (VTDOC) has a new set of Policies and Directives. As members of Alcoholics Anonymous it is important to accept their guidelines and cooperate with the VTDOC. In their eyes we fall under the heading of "Volunteer Staff." All A.A. members in the near future must receive this "Site Security Training" if they want to continue to carry the message behind the walls. The purpose of this Training is to insure the safety of both the inmates and volunteers. We also learned that the application forms are now universal throughout the department. One clearance in a facility will now allow us to enter any other facility with a few days notice and help from our local prison volunteer coordinator. Please ask the corrections chair for more details.

Will There Be A Spring Corrections Workshop? It depends on the response from our districts in Northern Vermont. Please step up and help us carry the message outside and inside the walls.

"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
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