

BEHIND THE WALLS IN VERMONT

AREA 70 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
May 31, 2009



CORRECTIONS WORK AT THE CONVENTION

The Corrections Committee “arrived early and stayed late” at our Area 70 Vermont 46th Annual Convention. Our display included Jailboxes and Jailcans/ jars/ bottles/mugs, etc. Our rack had correction related pamphlets. Other material displayed and handed out were past newsletters and committee reports, Prerelease and Correspondence forms and info cards, Inmate to Inmate books, etc.

The “Pink Can” idea was “borrowed” from Northern California.

It began in that area in 1985. Money donated to our Jailcans will only be spent to purchase General Service Conference approved literature & Grapevine literature. It will be distributed to AAs Behind The Walls. “Buddy, can you spare me a dime?” The phrase is as relevant today as it was 80 years ago.

Groups decide by their group conscience if they want to support Corrections work in this way. If so, these cans are available through the Area Corrections Committee. Usually the can sits by the coffee pot or the group's literature table. Those who wish to support may do so by putting in “loose change” and bills. The money is then brought to your District Corrections Chair, DCM, or the Area 70 Corrections Chair. Please consider starting a Jailcan in your home group. Just ask us for a label to be put on a coffee can, and we'll mail or email it to you. Seven Jailboxes and eight Jailcans were handed out. \$37.00 was contributed. Do any correction volunteers have need for literature in their facilities?

Literature in District Eight: Julie is the District 8 Corrections Chair, and has been working closely with Margery Reurink, the Volunteer Coordinator at Springfield's Southern State Correctional Facility. It's hard to keep A.A. literature on hand and in the library, especially the Big Book. All the more need for contributions to Jailboxes and Jailcans. If you have literature for AAs Behind the Walls, stop by their district meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month and give them to Julie or Elaine, the District 8 DCM.

Mini-Workshop: We asked the Convention Committee and were given a Saturday afternoon time slot to conduct a Mini-Workshop: What The Corrections Committee Does, Outside and Inside The Walls. Approximately thirty people attended. After a description on Prerelease and Correspondence, Jailbox/Jailcans, bringing meetings inside, cooperating with professionals, etc., we asked our correction volunteers to speak on these topics, and take questions. As usual, we ran out of time.

Questionnaire Box: We had a Questionnaire Box and this form to be completed at the Convention:

We are considering having the Fall Corrections Workshop in Southern Vermont at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland on a Saturday, between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. AAs Behind the Walls would attend from 4 to 5:45, a half hour pizza dinner, then continuing from 6:15 to 8:00 with outside members and Correctional Professionals.

1. Do you think this is a good idea? Yes No

2. Would you consider attending? Yes No

Please answer regardless of your intention to attend. Thank you.

Twenty seven AAs completed the questionnaire. All 27 agreed it was a good idea. 21 would consider attending. We will discuss this further with our friend at Marble Valley, John Cassarino, the Volunteer Coordinator, and at the Corrections Committee Workshop on June 6th and at the Corrections Committee

Meeting before the Full Area Assembly on June 21 in Townshend. Please give us your feedback on this idea. Would you attend? Our contact info is at the bottom of this page. It's now up to the DCMs and Correction Volunteers to "spread the word."

New Volunteers: During the course of the weekend, three AA members volunteered to register with a specific facility in the Dep't. of Corrections to "Bring Meetings In Behind The Walls." All that was necessary was a legal name, current address, telephone number, and date of birth. They will now be able to attend up to six meetings in this correction facility with an approved fellow volunteer, before deciding if they want to formally register and receive a permanent ID, which will allow them to attend on their own.

Service Work At The Convention: There is no doubt that our Area 70 Convention is a wonderful social event. But who said meaningful service work cannot be blended with A.A. fun and laughter?

Save the date: the AREA 70 SPRING WORKSHOP IN NORTHERN VERMONT

is on June 6th, in Montpelier. Flyers are available from your DCM, and are also on our website, aavt.org, where they can be downloaded, printed, and handed out at your meetings. Please plan on attending and participating.

Speaking Of Our Website, have you checked out the Corrections info available online? On the Home Page of aavt.org, simply click on the purple Area 70 Corrections Committee page and find this info:

- The Prerelease Contact Program and Correspondence Service Forms for both AAs on the Inside and Outside are available to download, print and submit.
- The four most recent Correction Committee Reports and Newsletters "Behind The Walls In Vermont" can be read or downloaded.
- Artwork for both Jailboxes and Jailcans can be downloaded and printed. In the near future we will also have a description of these tools, and how these programs work.
- A live link to our General Service Corrections Committee will be added soon.

If you click onto the Area 70 blue 2009 Schedule of Events, our workshop is listed by date, location, and the flyer is available to read and print by clicking onto "Information." All this material is a "website" version, using no recognizable names or personal contact info. Our traditions are fastidiously observed.

Our committee acknowledges our Full Area Assembly for their confidence in allowing us to continue this groundbreaking use of our Area 70 Website. It could not be accomplished without your support and the guidance and patience of our acting webservant. Thank you.

What happened to **More Payday?** Frankly, we've had so much service activity to report that there is no room in this issue. But we will "tickle" you with More Payday personal experiences in the June issue:

- › a new outside volunteer recounts his experiences as an AA Behind The Walls.
- › getting bugged for a Jailbox "for my group."
- › an outside AA volunteer explains why he goes "Behind The Walls."
- › staying sober in a prison by an incarcerated AA member.

The Corrections Committee needs your help in making this your newsletter. Please submit your experiences, strengths, and hopes. And your comments or questions, too.

For a copy or pdf of this newsletter, past issues, and Committee Reports, please contact the Corrections Chair: PO Box 32, Bomoseen, VT 05732 · Email: area70corrections@yahoo.com or chazzc70@aol.com; telephone 802-265-3455
Note: this is a website version without personal contact info.