

Sharing Hope.

Moving Images of Recovery

A Monthly Letter from the Director of Los Angeles H&I

I recently received a call from the Corrections Coordinator for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services in NY asking if we could help them out. I was informed that World Services is working on a video entitled, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell", and would like to film inside the LA County Jails and interview inmates. The video will be approximately 30 minutes in length and will be shown in jails and prisons throughout the United States and Canada, and will be posted on the AA.org website. The video will introduce the AA program to inmates who have a desire to stop drinking.

A large percentage of inmates commit crimes while under the influence of alcohol. AA provides an opportunity for inmates to stop drinking and stay stopped when they get out. This video will encourage alcoholic inmates to participate in AA. They will see how they can work the AA program by attending meetings, reading literature, exchanging letters with AA members on the outside, and working with others on the inside. Once the new video is approved by the General Service Conference it would replace the 25-year-old Corrections video, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell".

I put a call out to the Assistant Sheriff for LA County asking if it would be possible to film inside the LA County Jails. She agreed. I am happy to announce that Los Angeles H&I is helping facilitate this video for AA World Services. What a great opportunity for Los Angeles H&I to be of service and help carry the message to alcoholics incarcerated in jails and prisons throughout the United States and Canada.

Sincerely,
 Greg B.,
 Director, LA H&I

DONE READING? PASS ON WHAT WAS FREELY GIVEN!

Know a fellow who wants to pump new life into his program? Share your copy of this newsletter. Or have that wavering sponsee check out the newsletter archives at <http://lahic.org/newsletter.php>. The stories will augment your own experience, strength, and hope around the amazing 12th-Step rocket fuel we enjoy in H&I. (Hint: the Directors' stories make great announcements at your meeting, too!)

The Los Angeles H&I Committee

| | |
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LAHIC CAN COLLECTION

From January through April of 2015, 437 groups in the L.A. area took in a total of \$36,437.20 in collections for H&I at meetings. Congratulations, and keep passing it on—the can, that is!

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| January 2015 | \$12,028.21 |
| February 2015 | \$9,402.85 |
| March 2015 | \$6,939.17 |
| April 2015 | \$8,066.97 |
| TOTAL | \$36,437.20 |

“WAIT, WHERE THE (BLEEP) ARE YOU GOING? I’M NOT GOOD WITH VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT’S MY OWN!!!”

This month I’ve had the privilege to take three people on their very first jail panels (the word trepidation comes to mind); one super nervous newcomer kept asking me: “What if someone takes our badges and switches clothes and then we’ll be the inmates” My reply, “Well, I wouldn’t mind seeing that, it would make for a heck of a story, although getting used to whatever is in the breakfast burritos would take some work.” Another gal wanted to know why the sheriffs weren’t brandishing firearms inside the jail. I told her she should be thankful, because if there was a melee our chances of getting shot were as good as anyone.

Actually, it really takes me back to 2010 when I was brand new to the jail panels. My first visit to Men’s Central Jail consisted of me trying to figure out who was going to take me to the hospital in case I got shanked. When the inmates filed into the dayroom sporting tattoos I hadn’t recognized growing up in the mean streets of Iowa, my heart skipped a beat. The only thing that saved me from having some sort of bathroom incident was the sight of the sheriff, which was short lived; he proceeded to walk over to me and whisper in my ear “You might want to sit



near the exit” and left. Did I survive? Yes! Resoundingly, Yes! That panel was like all the other panels I’ve led over the years—it was about sobriety and a chance for a new life. The men and women incarcerated could not be more grateful for those who share their message through the power of H&I! Bless all those newcomers who have had the faith and courage to go on their first panel!

Gene S.

AA H&I Corrections Director

LEAD THE WAY TO STRONGER SOBRIETY



Hello all,

Once again I want thank all of you for being of service and for carrying the message of recovery and hope.

I want to remind you to not leave literature at any facility and to only dispense it to residents up on request and to send in your post panel reports.

We need “Panel Chair” people.

If you don’t know who your panel chair person is for a panel that you lead, there’s a good chance the panel doesn’t have one.

This may be a great opportunity for you to be of further service and check with your “Area Supervisor” and volunteer to become one.

We still need people from outside of the Westside area—particularly women—to come and participate as panel leaders and panel speakers for Downtown panels.

We also need Westside people to step up as well.

Many of us (me included) went to any lengths to get drunk.

Today, as far as I am concerned, I am willing to be inconvenienced in the service of others.

In loving service,

Noeh H.

LAHIC Hospital Panels Director