

Sharing Hope.

Service with humility

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

Hello H&I sisters and brothers,

Once again I want to begin by thanking you for all your service.

Through the years I've been involved in the management aspect of H&I, I've become aware that there are many panel leaders who have had panels in the Hospital Panels side for many years, do not come to the monthly meeting and make those panels available to the people who do come and all and all just do not participate with H&I.

I am directing the Hospital Panels Director to have the Area supervisors to go through the charts and look into this issue and take action to enforce the Policy Guidelines.

This is from the AA General Service Conference-approved literature pamphlet "THE AA GROUP ... Where it all begins":

The Principle of Rotation

Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth—a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity. Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities." Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise—we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

Thank you again to all of you who participate with H&I.

With Love and Respect always.

*Noeh C.,
LAHIC Director*

The Los Angeles H&I Committee

- LAHIC DirectorNoeh C.
- Director's AssistantDevon C.
- Policy Council ChairGreg B.
- Correctional Panels DirectorGene S.
- Hospital Panels DirectorGregory G.
- Panel Screening ChairMark S.
- TreasurerMike A.
- Literature Fund ChairMargo R.
- SignsJessica H.
- Forms ChairpersonRobert G.
- RafflePiper G.
- CoffeeDavid H.
- Literature ChairpersonStephen B.
- OrientationAndy V. & Frank D.
- ScribeSasha B.
- WebmasterMarc W.
- Central Office LiaisonKim J.
- Bridging the Gap/CorrectionsBeverly M.
- Bridging the Gap/Hospitals & RehabsSarah P.
- LA Intergroup RepSasha B.
- Greeter/Smoking PoliceTerry W.
- Newsletter EditorColleen W.

Get this and all back issues of the LAHIC newsletter (minus the panel grids) online at <http://lahic.org/newsletter.php>. And if you sign up for the mailing list, you'll never have to worry about missing an issue again. Pass it on!

VISIT CENTRAL OFFICE LATELY?

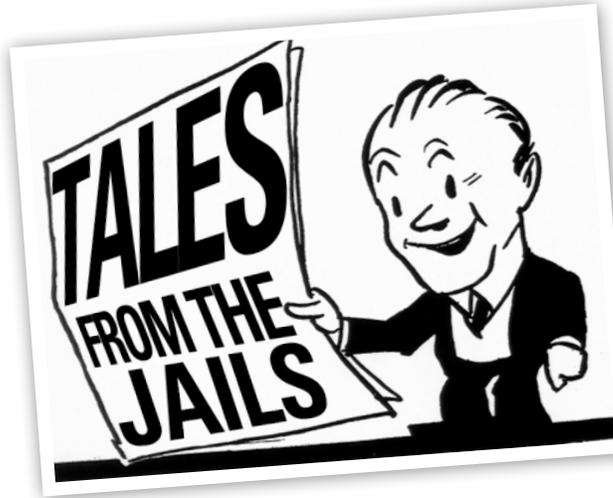
Plenty of opportunities to fill your free time with 12th-Step work! Help others, enjoy fellowship! More info: (323) 936-4343.

“WE THE JURY FIND THE DEFENDANT INCREDIBLY GUILTY OF NOT WORKING THE 12 STEPS!”

As I write this latest edition of my post-drinking follies, I'm at jury duty—as opposed to one of my many pre-sober court appearances, where I was at the mercy of a jury, which I could only hope would be both extremely sympathetic and incredibly naive.

I sat in court in 2002 with enough misdeeds (“You're going to jail.” “I don't think so, Copper!”) to require a \$20,000 bail, which may as well have been 20 million under my then-economic conditions. I asked the District Attorney if we could just waive that pesky fee and let me be on my merry drunken way, to which he let the judge and myself know, that in his opinion, I was a “Menace to Society!” And thanks to alcohol, I was. At the time my fantasy was to fight my case all the way up to the Supreme Court; the reality was I cowered down to the legal system and went back to jail for six

more months. No appellate court needed, I was officially a mess. Thank you AA for allowing those days to be long over.



I can empathize with an inmate I met at one of my recent jail panels. He had been sober for 10 years, completely changing his life from his previous years running sideways from the law. Unfortunately he got injured at work, took pain pills, abused them, ended up in rehab, and decided the best way to settle an argument with another patient was to stab him, and now is facing 45 years to life and is at the mercy of a jury; which all brings me back to my life today, sitting with my fellow jurors, knowing how blessed my life is today, in large part

due to folks who help carry the message, like my jail partner, Deborah, who just celebrated another sober year; H&I works!

Gene S.

AA H&I Corrections Director

AN ANCHOR FOR YOURSELF & OTHERS

H&I is a volunteer organization that has been saving lives for decades because the people that have given of themselves in love and service to this program have found that there is no better way to carry the message than H&I. Bring a friend to our next monthly meeting—someone that is curious about stepping up their program, or perhaps make a general announcement at the next meeting that you attend, especially if there is no regular H&I announcement. Let people know that we meet the second Monday of each month, same time, same place. Tell them that your H&I commitment anchors your sobriety.

At last month's H&I business meeting I had that wonderful occurrence that you



hear in people's pitches but never really happens very often. A young man came up to me as I was milling about and thanked me, most graciously. He proceeded to tell

me that he heard me speak at Men's Central and when he was released decided to take me up on attending the monthly meeting. Before I could honor what an impressive step he had taken, I was greeted by someone else and he slipped away, so humbly, standing at the precipice of life.

Become a panel leader if you have yet to. It may save a life, most importantly yours. Your H&I commitment means more than you will ever know.

Gregory Gardner

AA H&I Hospitals Director

Area7@gregorysgardner.com