

# Sharing Hope.

## Goodbye 2016, H(&)I 2017!

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

Well folks, here we are, 2017, and personally for me, just about nine years after I did my first H&I panel. (If I may, let me take a moment to turn the clock back from 2017 to 2008...okay, all done.)

I was about six months sober when my friend, Donald, asked if I could speak on his Saturday morning panel at UCLA psychiatric ward.

“Well, I’d love to, Donald, but unfortunately my alma mater, University of Iowa, is playing a football game on TV at that time. Good luck to those people, though!” was my reply.

“Can you record the game and watch it later?” Donald asked.

“Huh, I never thought of that—*can I record the game and watch it later?* Perhaps I can. Let me see if modern technology can handle that, and I’ll get back to you.”

Well, technology could actually record programs in 2008, so I spoke on the panel, and my life was changed forever. I immediately felt a purpose to my life (I discovered that playing along to *Price is Right* was actually not the purpose for my existence), and I jumped way into H&I. I started doing hospital panels and then jail panels.

I figured I was a natural for the jails since I had previous experience as a nuisance and resident of the legal system.

“You, sir, are a menace to society!” exclaimed the district attorney, as I found myself once again in front of a judge begging for clemency.

“Well, you sir, are...uh...you um...huh, menace...you may have something there, Constable...” was my sheepish reply. (Was I actually a menace? It was hard to decide without a drink, thus adding to my countless battles with Johnny Law).

Anyway, back to happier, sober times in my H&I career: I moved on to become a panel leader, Chairperson, Supervisor, Correctional Panels Director, and finally here I am in 2017 in my new position. I’m so incredibly thankful for those who came before me—thank you Greg & Noeh, and to those who will follow.

I’m also incredibly thankful for all our leaders and supervisors and for those who share their time and sobriety by speaking on panels. I am by no means a wizard of prognostication, but I believe I can guarantee two things for 2017: (1) H&I will continue to make a difference in countless lives; and (2), I will remember each day as a blessing.

*Gene S.,  
LAHIC Director*

### *The Los Angeles H&I Committee*

LAHIC Director .....	Gene S.
Director’s Assistant .....	Deborah K.
Policy Council Chair .....	Noeh C.
Correctional Panels Director .....	Stephen B.
Hospital Panels Director .....	Gregory G.
Panel Screening Chair .....	Mark S.
Treasurer .....	Mike A.
Literature Fund Chair .....	Jeff G.
Signs .....	Jessica H.
Forms Chairperson .....	(open commitment)
Raffle .....	Schlomo A.
Coffee .....	Donnie.
Literature Chairperson .....	Paco M.
Orientation .....	Devon C. & Frederick J.
Scribe .....	Piper G.
Webmaster .....	Marc W.
Central Office Liaison .....	Tom C.
Bridging the Gap .....	Miguel M. & Jamarah H..
Bridging the Gap/Hospitals & Rehabs .....	(open)
LA Intergroup Rep .....	(open)
Greeter/Smoking Police .....	Terry W.
Newsletter Editor .....	Colleen W.

### CAN TOTALS:

From our Treasurer, Mike A.: “Total H&I literature collection in 2016 was... \$124,824.17!!! Incredible, isn’t it? How many lives has this literature saved? A bargain at twice the price, in my opinion.” We agree, Mike! Thank YOU and your group. Here’s to a great 2017!

### 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.

**HELLO 2017! AND THANK YOU ALREADY!**

Thank you for the nomination to H&I Corrections Director! Thank you for your excellent and valuable service to our brothers and sisters in jail and to AA! Thank you, Gene, for the wonderful two years of leadership you provided before me. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. And thank you, God. I find myself saying that a lot these days :)

I'm excited, humbled and frankly overwhelmed at the moment with all the new responsibilities. I know that in two months it will be better so I'm sitting in the 'hang-in-there space' for now. HP has great plans for us. H&I changed my life six years ago and continues to be the most meaningful thing I do. I love being on this journey with you. I love bringing experience, strength and hope to our brothers and sisters in jails and hospitals. I feel hope and joy when I'm on a panel and an



incredible sense of gratitude every time I get in my car to head home afterwards. I understand now that my alcoholism and addiction had a purpose...to get me here!

You are the most important part of H&I. You are the feet on the ground, the open hands and the words of love. So many—even in their dire situations—do not know there is a solution. A solution for alcoholism. For addiction. For living. You bring that solution and hope.

Here's to a powerful, beautiful, joyful 2017! I hope you come and join us in the best H&I service around! Please introduce yourself and let me know what I can do for you. Like Gene always said... "H&I works!"

*Stephen B.,  
AA H&I Corrections Director*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR? IT IS, INDEED!**

This year, we want to reach out to our H&I community more directly. The Area Supervisors on the Hospitals side of the room are collecting names, phone numbers and email addresses of folks that would be willing to speak on panels.

This is important because at the end of the business meeting we often have panels that still need speakers, and this email/text list is an opportunity to get these panels filled, sometimes at the last minute. Please indicate on the sheet if you are willing to lead a panel; sometimes we need temporary panel leaders for certain panels. This is another lesson that we

have learned from the Jails side of the room, and it works, so let's



appropriate it, shall we?

We only ask that before you add your name to the list, you have taken the orientation workshop, which is

held monthly at 7pm, prior to the H&I business meeting. That would be the second Monday of each month at 4153 Overland Ave. in Culver City, CA 90230. So please, if you have been oriented, and you are interested, then stop by and visit one of our Area Supervisors to add your name to the list. H&I is growing, and we want to make sure that it continues. Visiting folks that are still sick and suffering is what we do, because we were there, and someone was there for us.

All my love for the New Year, and I hope to see each of you soon.

*Gregory Gardner  
AA H&I Hospitals Director*