The Scoop

February 2025

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Please limit submissions to 500

My First H&I Prison Panel

In November of 2023 I attended an H&I Committee Meeting and met the late Sheila Green. Sheila was the H&I Panel Coordinator for the Lancaster Prison. She guided me through the completion of the Volunteer Application which was submitted to the prison in January 2024 and ultimately approved in June 2024. When I was finally able to go to the prison the staff apologized for the delay in approval and blamed it on a shortage of personnel which has since been corrected.

On my first panel I went with Sheila and Carl F. We met at the Administration Building, then walked through two security checkpoints, and arrived at Facility B. The meeting is held in the Chapel, a small room within a building near where the inmates live. We were accompanied by Jose P., a staff employee, a counselor trained in substance abuse recovery, and a recovering alcoholic with 20+ years of sobriety.

The inmates, about 15, arrived one by one and were not escorted. Most of them came up to each of us, smiled, shook hands, and we introduced ourselves. The inmates run the meetings, so there is a meeting whether the H&I panel shows up or not. They attend the meetings voluntarily, they cannot be forced to attend. On Tuesdays there are two meetings back to back 1 ½ hours each, with a different group of inmates. The first meeting started with the Serenity Prayer. Then it went around the room and we introduced ourselves and briefly shared how we were doing. Then we broke into 3 smaller groups to discuss questions about the current Step that was being discussed. The questions were on a printed sheet, part of a folder of AA material that is handed out to the inmates. There were 5 in my group. We sat in a small circle. Each person shared their own response to the question.

While they did not share explicit details about their crime they were more open than I had anticipated when talking about their addiction, their past, their families, hopes for release. Some were extremely articulate, others struggled to express themselves. I shared my thoughts alongside those of the inmates.

They really appreciate unpaid volunteers from the outside who will come and talk with them. We can bring printed material that the prison does not make available. We can share

what AA meetings are like on the outside.

At the end of the meeting several inmates came to each of us, smiled, said thank you hope to see you again. I am not a Big Book or 12 Step Guru but I learned that you do not need to be one in order to participate on an H&I prison panel.

By: Scott B. A.A. 2023

Election of the Intergroup Officers Committee

Nominations of all qualified AA members for board positions shall be held at the regular Intergroup Meeting in the months of January and February. The Intergroup Steering Committee is held on the **1st Thursday of each month at the Antelope Valley Central Office.** Any AA member who is qualified for the open position and is willing to make the necessary commitment may be nominated. Qualifications for the open positions are available at the Central Office. There must be at least two nominations for each position.

The annual election will be held during the first week of March. Ballots may be cast during regular business hours at the A.V. Central Office for one week prior to the Annual Election Meeting held on the first Thursday of March. All A.V. AA members may vote.

Additional nominations will be accepted at the February 1st meeting at 7:00pm at the AV Central Office.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Calendar of Events

Central Office Intergroup Meeting-1st Thursday of the month at Central Office @7pm
Roundup Meeting-1st Sunday each month @5:30, Grange
H&I Meeting- 2nd Sunday each month @10am, Friends of Bill
District 7 Meeting- 2nd Monday each month @ 6:30, Grange Hall
Roundup Men of AA Serve You, Feb. 8, 33317 Santiago Road, Acton @ 5:00
Feb. 14th, Palmdale Group 38th Alcathon

Step 2

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, "Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the barrel, all right—but where do we go from here?"

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe—the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only as savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore the only god that his universe knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, "Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so. So did a friend of mine who was a one-time vice-president of the American Atheist Society, but he got through with room to spare."

The 2nd Tradition

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too, is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, "This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere." These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and lean that the sole authority in A.A. is a living God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A.A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, "Yes! It definitely does." The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts.

When alcohol influenced every facet of my life, when bottles became the symbol of all my self-indulgence and permissiveness, when I came to realize that, by myself, I could do nothing to overcome the power of alcohol, I realized I had no recourse except to surrender. In surrender I found victory over my stubborn resistance to life as it was given to me. When I stopped fighting anybody or anything, I started on the path to sobriety, serenity and peace.

WordPuzzle

D	B	F	I	N	D	E	R	E	A
I	A	K	O	S	A	N	I	T	Y
R	A	G	T	P	C	O	N	W	E
E	A	K	R	O	N	V	B	I	H
C	C	H	D	N	X	T	E	Z	N
T	T	O	Q	S	U	E	P	C	U
I	I	P	V	O	R	G	I	F	T
O	O	E	K	R	S	X	R	A	Q
N	N	S	E	R	E	N	I	T	Y
Q	Z	C	A	L	A	M	I	T	Y
Y	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	M
H	I	N	D	S	I	G	H	T	Y

AKRON. SPONSOR, ACTION, DIRECTION, HOPE, SANITY
BUSINESS, GIFT, FIND, CALAMITY, SERENITY, HINDSIGHT

Daily Reflections excerpt on Forming True Partnerships

Page 172: *But it is from our twisted relations with family, friends, and society at large that many of us have suffered the most. We have been especially stupid and stubborn about them. The primary fact that we fail to recognize is our total inability to form a true partnership with another human being.*

-TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 53

Can these words apply to me am I still unable to form a true partnership with another human being? What a terrible handicap that would be for me to carry into my sober life! In my sobriety I will meditate and pray to discover how I may be a trusted friend and companion.

Second Concept:

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference Charter- the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

"An AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service."

— *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, p. 140

February 2025 Office Manager Report

		Jan	YTD Total
Sales of Goods		$5,577.25	$5,577.25
Expenses		($6,526.82)	($6,526.82)
Cost of Goods		($2,207.00)	($2,207.00)
Contributions		$2,626.82	$2,626.82
Net Income	**$0.00**	**($529.75)**	**($529.75)**

Contributions

Group	Jan	Total
A Gathering of Women		$0.00
AM/Mid-Day Mod		$0.00
Anonymous	$258.98	$258.98
Any Lengths Group		$0.00
AV Hospital		$0.00
AV Men's Stag		$0.00
AV Roundup		$0.00
AVYPAA		$0.00
Birthday		$0.00
Cal City Clubhouse		$0.00
Crown Valley Group		$0.00
Daily Reflections		$0.00
District 7	$78.20	$78.20
Faithful Fiver	$323.00	$323.00
High Desert BB Grp		$0.00
Intergroup Fundraisers		$0.00
Into Action		$0.00
Joe & Charlie Book Study - Alano		$0.00
Lake Hughes Group	$140.00	$140.00
New Beginnings		$0.00
Open Door		$0.00
Open Participation		$0.00
Palmdale Grp	$766.08	$766.08
Palmdale Mon Noon 12 & 12		$0.00
Pearblossom Grp		$0.00
PM Mod	$167.97	$167.97
Quartz Hill Unity Grp	$210.00	$210.00
Rainbow Grp		$0.00
Recovery @ The Ranch		$0.00
Rosamond Sun Night		$0.00
Rule 62 Grp		$0.00
Sat AM Men's Stag		$0.00
Step Workshop Meeting		$0.00
Sun Love & Tolerance		$0.00
Sun Night BBS	$90.00	$90.00
Thursday Night Step Study		$0.00
Tuesday Topic Mtg - Alano		$0.00
Unity Group		$0.00
Wed Night BBS		$0.00
Westside Grp		$0.00
Women in Recovery		$0.00
Women Seeking Serenity		$0.00
Sober Sisters		
Digital Contributions	$592.59	$592.59
TOTALS	$0.00 $2,626.82	$2,626.82

Chris T.	2/19/2024	1	Lennie H.	2/27/2003	22
Andrew M.	2/23/2024	1	Rick C.	2/3/2003	22
Patricia S.	2/5/2022	3	T. J. S.	2/23/2003	22
Sharon E.	2/23/2022	3	Bonnie E.	2/20/2002	23
Tommy B	2/19/2021	4	Kathy R.	2/13/2001	24
Brian Y.	2/13/2020	5	Ontaria W.	2/25/2001	24
Maureen O.	2/4/2018	7	Pat. T.	2/12/2001	24
Jerry D.	2/9/2016	9	Larry M.	2/29/2000	25
Alees H.	2/20/2016	9	Michael G.	2/22/2000	25
Malissa T.	2/24/2016	9	Tonie R.	2/18/2000	25
Larry W.	2/1/2015	10	Al Nelson	2/27/1999	26
Dan F.	2/26/2014	11	Lila P.	2/1/1999	26
Linnea M.	2/1/2014	11	Lila P.	2/1/1999	26
Greg B.	2/4/2014	11	Carol M.	2/12/1998	27
Doug C.	2/20/2014	11	John Michael	2/2/1998	27
Matt D.	2/21/2013	12	Sam S.	2/23/1998	27
Alex D.	2/12/2012	13	Jeanenne M.	2/21/1997	28
Amanda O.	2/7/2012	13	Jordan C.	2/7/1997	28
Sarah W.	2/10/2012	13	Kathleen B.	2/1/1997	28
Bob H.	2/13/2012	13	Marcia J.	2/14/1997	28
Lee F.	2/5/2012	13	Mark F.	2/10/1995	30
Sarah W.	2/10/2012	13	Janet R.	2/9/1993	32
Sharon R.	2/10/2012	13	Janie H.	2/22/1993	32
Janis B.	2/12/2012	13	Mark R.	2/24/1993	32
Susan M.	2/15/2012	13	Nancy N.	2/28/1993	32
Terra B.	2/18/2012	13	Nury C.	2/10/1993	32
Hillary C.	2/7/2011	14	Katie C.	2/11/1992	33
Jenny C.	2/27/2011	14	Melissa V.	2/22/1992	33
Jessica C.	2/18/2011	14	Judie M.	2/22/1991	34
Joe O.	2/12/2011	14	Kim	2/5/1991	34
Larry L.	2/2/2011	14	Gayle M.	2/20/1990	35
Melissa P.	2/9/2011	14	Mike H.	2/4/1990	35
Scott C.	2/17/2011	14	Mike S.	2/20/1990	35
Cindy B.	2/5/2010	15	David E.	2/14/1989	36
Rod W.	2/27/2010	15	Frank H.	2/11/1989	36
George C.	2/27/2010	15	Lori W.	2/4/1989	36
Kat H.	2/18/2010	15	Marilyn M.	2/23/1989	36
Kevin S.	2/17/2010	15	Ron M.	2/10/1989	36
Linda H.	2/9/2010	15	Francis R.	2/14/1988	37
Tonie R.	2/18/2009	16	Penny R.	2/10/1988	37
Wayne W.	2/9/2009	16	Tom L.	2/22/1988	37
Bob J.	2/19/2008	17	Bud V.	2/23/1987	38
Brad B.	2/15/2008	17	Jeffery T.	2/21/1987	38
Michael P.	2/18/2008	17	Kip O.	2/4/1986	39
Mike W.	2/13/2008	17	Steve L.	2/5/1986	39
Robert W.	2/4/2008	17	Pat J.	2/24/1985	40
Benecia S.	2/14/2007	18	Ginney	2/2/1984	41
Dave W.	2/12/2007	18	Bob T.	2/2/1984	41
Debbie H.	2/25/2007	18	Joyce M.	2/2/1982	43
Betsy C.	2/2/2006	19	Charlie R.	2/28/1981	44
Carol W.	2/8/2006	19	Gary F.	2/20/1981	44
Jenni J.	2/8/2006	19	Gary S.	2/18/1981	44
Laura F.	2/8/2006	19	George W.	2/16/1979	46
Merridith E.	2/21/2005	20	Kate W.	7/28/1978	47
Raymond Mc.	2/10/2005	20	Will L.	2/17/1978	47
John H.	2/25/2004	21	Skip W.	2/23/1977	48
Mike F.	2/14/2004	21	Beverly L.	2/15/1976	49
Chuck S.	2/15/2003	22	Jeanie G.	2/29/1976	49
Debbie B.	2/13/2003	22	Joe F.	2/27/1971	54
Donna B.-L.	2/1/2003	22			

Get your groups birthday list to Central Office . . . That's how they appear here!

Total Years = 2,750

Managers Corner

Don't forget to sign up or renew your Faithful Fiver! As you can see here, we are also in need of volunteers to clean and work the office once a month. Call (661) 945-5757 if interested.

Thank You Saturday Volunteers!!

1st ~ Larry W. & Kurt H.
2nd ~ Wendy W. & Vacant
3rd ~ Nonna W. &Vacant
4th ~ Carmen R. & Vacant
5th ~ Stephanie S. & Vacant

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!!

Jeffrey Harlow

Don't forget to visit us on the Web!