

Area 72 Corrections: March Quarterly Minutes
Saturday, March 15, 2025

Agenda

- Call to Order and Serenity Prayer
- Read: How It Works for Corrections.
- Introductions
 - Leah – Pierce County Standing Committee Corrections Chair
 - Matt – Secretary – fully live recently. Please send any reports or changes to corsecretary@area72aa.org.
- Volunteers for Pre-Release Coordinator and Lit Coordinator
 - Pre-Release Coordinator – Victoria (Pierce County)
 - Help acclimate inmates into first AA meetings
 - Protocol – volunteer list, contact AAs when discharged from jails/prisons – first 6 meetings. When taking cases outside of district, will forward off to A72 Pre-Release Coordinator and pass along to appropriate district committee PRC.
 - Aimee: ask for a volunteer to take the position.
 - Keith: All prisons in Western WA use Tacoma as the clearing house
 - Bob: how many pre-release requests each year?
 - Victoria: Sandy previous would pass along to Area. 3-4 per month. Corresponds with AAs in the corrections system – personalize responses with template.
 - Aimee asked Victoria if she can take it, but she has previous commitments and may not be able to take over.
 - Robert as a candidate for the A72 corrections pre-release chair.
 - Literature Coordinator
 - Keep track of lit to stock literature racks in corrections facility meetings.
 - Handle budget/billing for lit.

Aime: PRAASA assembly in Anchorage, met a man that started with Russian speaking AA.org, especially in WA state prisons systems here. Flyer and cards to pass around. Seattle contact for Russian based AAs.

Aimee: Need host for next quarterly June 21st.

Leah: Host committee would prefer good hybrid equipment, breakfast and lunch.

D18 Tukwila/Kent/Renton and D31 Burien/Des Moines would like to host at Seattle Intergroup.

Aimee: Traveling in December so proposed change to the quarterly date. Propose moving 20th quarterly to December 13th. Leah files motion: unanimous approval.

First Hispanic speaking corrections chair: Santiago District 1.

Karen Seattle Intergroup – need Spanish speakers for meetings. Want to work with Santiago on getting Spanish speakers into either Spanish meetings or just fluent speakers.

- Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

Reports

- Chair – Karen
- Vice Chair – Vacant
- Treasurer – Vacant
- Recording Secretary – Rebecca
- Literature – Barbara G
- Volunteer Coordinator – Jennifer
- Prerelease Program – Dan

Facility Reports

- Federal Detention Center: Barbara G

- SCORE:
 - Women's – Kim H
 - Men's – Jonathan & Antonio
- Juvenile Detention Center:
 - Girls Meetings: Katie Jo
 - Boys Meetings: Barry S
- King County Jail: Pam H
- Regional Justice Center: Craig
- Kent City Jail: Bob and Christie
- Work Release Houses:
 - Helen Ratcliff
 - Pioneer Co-ed Federal Halfway House
 - Reynolds Work Release: Derrick

District/Group/Area Reports

- District 1 (Santiago) – presenting for District 1. I am currently new to the service position. DCM, GSR, and all district service – new to area. Little bit more complicated than other service positions previously, working more with professionals. Still acclimating to new role. Auburn, WA. Still learning how to work within corrections in the district or area. Ready to help.
- District 2 (absent)
- District 3 (Bobby) – just joined this last month. D3 Monroe, Sultan, Lake Stevens, Snohomish “All ears, open-minded, and ready. Happy to be here.”
- District 4 (absent)
- District 5 (absent)
- District 6 (absent)
- District 7 (absent)
- District 8 (absent)
- Pierce County District D9/29/44/45/54 (Leah) – incoming corrections chair, officially filled all positions, new facilities opening and supporting with meetings and lit. The biggest variables are not being able to get into all facilities yet, some have been renovated and making headway. Now into Puyallup Tribal (great news). Reman Hall, WCCW Purdy, Ice Detention, Western State Psych, McNeil Island. Acclimating into new roles. Goal: to continue to forge and maintain relationships with facilities that do not allow meetings yet.
- District 10 (absent)
- D11 (absent)
- D12 (absent)
- D13 (absent)
- District 14 (Katie Jo) – West Seattle, Whitecenter, Vashon Island. New in role and level of service. Trying hard to get pink can around to meetings, more volunteers, and many don't seem to know what is out there for corrections.
- Seattle Intergroup: Districts 14/15/16/17/18/24/25/31/32/33/40/41/42 – (Karen) Seattle Intergroup – took over for term last year and was re-elected for a full term. Excellent group of trusted servants on committee. New group of people on committee and need Vice-Chair for committee. A few districts are still working on corrections chairs. Going around and promoting attractions for Corrections. Working with the regional justice center to get meetings into prisons. The new RJC coordinator submitted 20 new applications. Echo Glen Snoqualmie process to reopen for boys and girl's meetings. Feb village women's correctional center asking for help with services – referred to A72. Pink can program going well. \$1398.71 in the past quarter to buy \$1604.40 worth of books. Corrections workshop volunteer event in Shoreline, WA 4/26/25. Specifically, corrections service, speakers, found AA in the facility. Working on info sheet for those who want to do corrections but do not have 2 years of sobriety. Met with D32, D15 who did not have DCCs. D15 filled, will meet with D31 and D42. Do other corrections committees do annual or biannual inventories? Question about people on house arrest who need court slips signed and attend Zoom meetings. D14 trying to get Pink Can representation at 50% of meetings in district.
- District 16 (Gary?) (See Seattle Intergroup)
- District 17 (Gavi) (See Seattle Intergroup)
- District 18 (Jeff) – new to rotation, 2-year break from district service and diving back in. Standing meeting in Kent Jail, every Sat 3:30 women and Tue evening men. Coordinators for those have

been doing for 25 years and looking to step down. 16 men on rotation for the meetings. Women have 13 women on rotation for meetings. Trying to get into RJC.

- District 19 (Rae) – Everett, Mill Creek, Mukilteo, Snohomish – new to rotation, was going into Snohomish County Jail previously. Has alt. Alt goes into Monroe Prison with others. Working on building up the rotation list. Previously was her and the previous corrections chair. Long process. Constant communication with program director at Snohomish County Jail. It takes a long time to get people through the process. Last month, dropped off a few boxes of literature. Exciting that people want literature in institutions. Big Books, 12x12, Daily Reflections, Pre-release forms. Goals to build up rotation list and get more meetings in.
- District 21 (Daniel) – AA meetings in the prison, Stafford Creek Corrections Tue/Sun. Municipal - Jail on tribe meeting every Monday. 3-4 years running. I have been going to these meetings for about 7 years. Corrections team diminished around COVID but now around 5, today 2 more volunteers joining team at orientation right now. Process to get access to prison. Past criminal background and able to bring their story to inmates.
- D22/55 – Vass not new but started with handful of volunteers, multiple subs. 4 correctional facilities, juvenile, Port City Jail. New meeting Deliver plain language big books to 3 facilities. Juvenile, Correction. Round trip 200 miles to get to the corrections facilities. Bring new events and workshops to the systems. Volunteer appreciation banquet upcoming but their speaker cannot get clearance into corrections facility. Opened a new meeting at Unit D at Clallam Bay Corrections Center, PLBB has been delivered to 3 facilities. 1.11.25 big orientation, 7 new volunteers and 21 total. Problems: “We don’t have any problems, just temporary challenges, which makes us stronger.” Goals: bring some 12-Step workshops and recovery events inside the walls (delegate reports, speakers, etc.).
- District 24 (Jason) – north of Seattle, Lynnwood/Edmonds/Terrace – first district level corrections. Good so far, working with Pam. Lynnwood City Jail hasn’t likely had meetings. Has some lit in there and going to try and “break into the jails.”
- District 25 online (Jill) – Bellingham women’s jails (psych background). Bringing AA into the facilities is critical, as is Bridge the Gap.
- D26 (absent)
- D27 – Mike – new to position. 2 jails. Men going but working on getting women set up. Work in progress getting district back together post-COVID.
- D28 (absent)
- D29 – (Janet) – Greater Seattle Intergroup Recording Secretary last rotation 2022-2024. Active member of Hospitals and Treatment Committee, attending several panels. Harborview, Key Recovery, Lakeside Milam, Hope Place, etc. Pink Can \$30, pre-release form full, wants to learn as much as possible and get more volunteers to reach the still suffering alcoholic. Serves Puyallup, Eatonville, Orting areas. Goals: to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic that is incarcerated. Get as many people involved as possible to take meetings into institutions. Continue to pass the Pink Can for donations and pre-release forms.
- District 31 (Dina) – Being of service to all that reach out for serenity through the 12-Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Goals: learn and show our district and spread the message of hope into corrections and bridge the gap to the outside.
- District 32 (vacant) (See Seattle Intergroup)
- District 33 (Curtis) Maple Valley, new to position, busy schedule but finding balance to meet commitments for service work. Looking to get involved and meeting new connections to find out issues and be part of solutions. Goals: to be available and attend monthly meetings at the committee level and develop connections with the lot close in the district and A72 to be of service.
- District 34 (Angel) – DCM34 – Bellevue, Redmond, Mercer Island. Kirkland City Jail is closest. The corrections chair had to step down for personal issues. Angel filling in. Received emails at the beginning of rotation from chairs to represent the district.
- District 40 (Rick) – Chapel Hill – quite a while since much involvement with corrections. Going to the intergroup corrections meeting. Encouraging members of the district to participate in Pink Can program. Pre-release program with members. Trying to spark interest. New to this part of general service, work-in progress.
- District 41 (Nick) (See Seattle Intergroup)
- District 42 (Kerilee) – N. Seattle – new to position – had questions for Karen. I want to get involved with pre-release process.
- District 43 (Maria) – some of Tacoma, Peninsula Cities (Bukley Home, Fox Island, Lake Bay, Manchester, Ollala), Gig Harbor, South Kitsap, Port Orchard. Facilities monthly – Kitsap County, WWCCW, Shelton Juvenile, Purdy. Accomplishments budget decreased at district (self-

recommended). Groups in the district are already very supportive with lit for corrections so able to get books in. Problems having a consistent and regular contact with certain facilities. Staff change, contact change at facilities. Working to get Kitsap County to re-do background checks. Applications pending. Purdy has a speaker coming from Oregon and one of her favorite speakers. Problems: getting in touch/responses from facilities, consistency in access to jails, getting books to jails and in the hands of people in custody. Goals: background check renewals, facility orientations.

- District 44 (Leah) – (See Pierce County D9 report)
- District 45 (Leah) – (See Pierce County D9 report)
- District 54 (Sarah/Steve) – good things happening. Eastern Plateau, South Prairie, Enumclaw to Greenwater. Kent regional justice center process of opening. Craig M. AA liaison to send volunteer names, sobriety and submit to the jails online. Enumclaw Jail is now remodeling, which should be done by May and may be able to get meetings back there. Military jail hasn't had meetings since 2005. Goals: take meetings into the Kent RJC and Enumclaw Jail within the next quarter.
- Broadview Group (Marcia O.)
- Empire Way Group (Barry)
- Stay Gold Group in D17 (Tom)

Karen: Intergroup Board Meeting last month, interested in getting Plain Language Big Book into prisons. So far, good responses and enthusiasm regarding. Asked if we can provide testimonials from people using the Big Book in correctional facilities. Discussion and dissention over Plain Language Version. Email: corrections@seattleaa.org

Janet: when first going to Kent Jail, they did use the Big Book. Just doing steps per month and read stories the women can relate to. Love the promises. Good feedback. Nice for girls that don't want to speak, can read. Groups used PLBB last month and it was interesting. Worked well.

Bobby: What is the Pink Can?

Leah: Pierce County corrections committee. Groups will personally donate to the Pink Can fund for corrections facilities. Money for corrections only. Every district has an opportunity to create their own labels. Because so much lit is being put into facilities, a case of Daily Reflections is \$500 – hard to get budgets for all corrections needs.

Janet brought a pink can in. You can find the label online.

Karen: money supposed to be only for AA approved lit. If not consistent communication, corrections may be used for whatever. Only AA approved lit.

Correspondence Program Discussion

Leah: new rotation for a lot of people. I talked a little about pre-release but wanted to touch on the correspondence program. What is the Correspondence Program?

Steve: been writing with inmate. Very gratifying and "damn easy." To receive a letter from the inmate and mail out, probably a month. Fill out a form and mail to New York, send a list of names of possible contacts. Write letters and sometimes they write back, sometimes they don't. Henry (Wyoming?) has been writing for a year. If anyone wants to sign up for correspondence, you can sign up online. (Posted link in Zoom chat). All funneled through GSO. Way more people in custody that need an AA to pair with them. If can get the conversation going in Area, can sign up for the program. Really need Spanish writing individuals.

Bob: was in the NY corrections system (Wyoming), was going to meetings while inside, went through AA with someone from the outside. Very fluid in NY corrections system. 3 days before release, received letter from AA correspondence – had someone at the gate to take him to a meeting. Had wrong release date but going out west. Something to monitor going forward? Give time to communicate release date and to meet an inmate at the doors of prisons. I was grateful for AA inside. Letters they talked about AA, 12 steps, etc. One of reasons mail slowed down is because you don't get original letter anymore, just a copy. Outgoing mail is fine but incoming mail is slower.

Leah: Volunteers are not often allowed to sponsor people in custody. They need to find a sponsor.

Janet: Why cannot sponsor? Every facility has its own rules and does not want volunteers to overshare personal information. Some don't care and others are stricter.

Vass: "Need to dance under the rules of the corrections institution."

Corrections Correspondence Program handled out of New York. Jason to put in waiting list order form. Fill out, buy a stamp, and mail. Correspondence program is one of the few programs that survived COVID.

Maria: AA.org has a form to apply for correspondence program.

Karen: Seattle Intergroup can use their address to use for mail from inmates for correspondence program.

Dena: What is the goal in what we're communicating (greater corrections responsibilities)?

Karen: Role of district corrections chair. Attend a quarterly and area correction meeting and report back about what is happening in corrections. Get word out of meetings inside facilities. Help connect them with the facilities coordinator at corrections committee. Corrections sign-up event. Talk about programs such as the pink can, so the district can take them back to their group meetings.

Autonomy of Pink Cans

Keith: Because of the greater Seattle intergroup, did not need to buy lit. The committee determined more need to offset mileage compensation for corrections volunteers. Using committee money comingled. One of the districts promised money only for literature and got "tail in a twist" and decided area had done wrong. Now when Pink Cans distributed, now used to "carry the message" but can be multiple purposes. If your area is going to use money for something else, just disclose. Plain Language Big Book: informed early on what PLBB is. It is difficult to get books into prisons. Inmates "absolutely devoured" the PLBB. When in the walls, amends are very important. Excellent description on how to make amends at back of PLBB. Glossary notes discussed multiple times on "how to make amends." Go into the PLBB as if you've never read the Big Book. Spirituality is it there and didn't need to pick up a dictionary once. Inmates have very limited education/vocabulary/reading skills. PLBB is working!

Dale: Interim Prerelease Coordinator (previous D3 corrections). Two meetings at Monroe prisons this AM. Wooden coins for Monroe facility – haven't had coins in a long time. Tangible reminder of connectivity to the AA program. Go back to home groups and get pre-release forms for the inmates released into Western WA familiar with meetings in their areas. No forms from anyone on the inside currently (not unusual). Several inmates getting released soon, and pre-release coordinator program can assist with the anxiety of release and connect newly released inmates with their communities.

Victoria: Six requests for pre-release in the Pierce County Corrections office. Asking committee members to take to their home group for volunteers.

Leah: For address on pre-release, can use address for CSO Tacoma.

Request from Courtney for opinion on Corrections:

General Service Conference items she cannot go through.

- 2 agenda items: topics to be discussed at a later Zoom meeting.

Sandy: circle back to open position for Correction Literature – available to fill position!

- Discuss with David regarding responsibilities

Old Business

- Update from Burien Little Assembly
- Unfilled committee positions (Vice Chair, Treasurer)
- Spring Volunteer Sign Up event, Saturday April 26.
- Article for the High & Dry - topic for next issue
- Corrections Handbook Update (Karen, Pam & Rebecca)

New Business

- Committee Inventory in 2025 (Karen)
- Anything Else?

Upcoming Events:

- Area 72 corrections quarterly, March 15th 10 am - 3 pm
- Spring Volunteer Recruitment Event: Saturday, April 26, 2025, Phoenix Club, Shoreline

Close with The Responsibility Statement and Adjourn

REPORTS

Corrections Chair Report
March 2025 meeting
Karen K

Thank you to everyone who showed up for the Corrections Table at the Burien Little Assembly on Saturday, 3/1. Thank you Rick (D40) and Nick (D41) for bringing all the supplies, setting up the display and returning everything to Intergroup. Thanks to Rick, Nick, Craig (RJC), Gavi (D17), Dan (Prerelease), Jason (D24), Bob (Kent City Jail) and Aimee (Area72) for being there to answer questions. Thank you Curtis (D33) for showing up so I could get your info! We had lots of interest, good energy, and fun!

During the month The Village, a program at the Womens Correctional Facility in Gig Harbor, reached out for help and possible services. I connected them with Area 72 and the district they are in.

Efforts are starting to reopen AA meetings at Echo Glen Juvenile Correction Center in Snoqualmie. The facility has given approval and some east-side people are working on this. More details as we learn them.

I am reaching out to the Districts which do not have a District Corrections Chair (DCC). Right now, it appears to be Districts 15, 31, 32. D42 may be inactive. Dan and I are attending the D32 March 3rd meeting to talk about the role of DCCs, service opportunities with corrections, answer questions and hopefully attract someone to try the position. We will also talk about Home Group Reps and the service they provide to individual groups. Same thing for D15 on Tuesday, 3/11. If you are interested in participating with this, please let me know!

The Area 72 Corrections Quarterly is on Saturday March 15! It's an important meeting for all District Corrections Chairs from western WA and a chance to meet a lot of people doing great work. I've been inspired by it. It'll be at the Pierce County Central Service Office in Tacoma, 10-2. We'll talk about carpooling at the meeting.

Big thank you to Counterpoint, Mt Rainier Big Book Study, Empire Way, Mountlake Terrace Wednesday Night Group, Sunday Night Speakers and Sober Sisters of Seattle for contributing \$463.76 to the Pink Can Fund. We used \$770 to purchase literature.