

Area 72 March Corrections Quarterly

Greater Seattle Intergroup (March 21st, 2026)

Host committee announcements

Inventory ad hoc committee: How to make 7th tradition contributions available online.

Nashville Area 92 and Area 72 national corrections committee to bring conference over to the west coast (historically east coast). Southeast FL got the bid (weather advantage in Nov). Working to get bid into Seattle. Contacting Purdy and Monroe; often, host committee will get involved with a corrections facility and bring a meeting into the facility.

Area 72 2028 conference bid: Last year, t-shirts and buttons handed out (very popular). Hoping that corrections can come up with an Area 72 theme for 2028 conference bid. Email Aimee at corrections@area72aa.org. Take to corrections committees in district. Working in tandem with Area 92 (feelers with Oregon to join the bid). One idea: “Freedom Starts from the Inside.”

Prerelease coordinator report: 7 prerelease requests this quarter – 2 from 92, 1 from Cali, 3 from here but releasing to 92. 1 from Area 72. If going to A92, forward over the request to corrections. Many requests don’t have a release date, city, or address – difficult to match people up without region or release date. Can hook person in custody up with a volunteer through prison email system for direct contact. Lily eastside intergroup prerelease coordinator. Create FAQ for step-by-step guide to use the Securus prison email system. Carry-over from last quarterly – volunteer spreadsheet.

If approved visitor for facility, cannot have Securus email account. Volunteers cannot have any outside influence with person in custody. Visitors can. Visitor vs. volunteer? Volunteer needs a background check and can facilitate meeting. To clarify, when meeting in facility, unsupervised interactions. When a visitor, more regulated/mandated, guard, overseen by staff.

12-step work in corrections: “unpaid dept of corrections employees” will visit inmates in prison. Find separate group of volunteers to apply for visitation.

Purdy prison: woman connected with someone in Spokane but not connected to in-person meeting. Can happen where people can ask for a new volunteer connection? Pre-release coordinator: contact district releasing to and find volunteer to act as pre-release coordinator. If not happy with original volunteer/result, can go back to prerelease coordinator to contact them and see if the inmate can get a new volunteer.

Committee Reports:

D43: past quarter, making progress in women's prison. Met with district 10's corrections chair. Their facility closed. Purdy got an increase in people. Possibly combining efforts between the districts. Problems: haven't been able to have contact with juvenile facility, led to lack of interest in participation of committee members. Kitsap County Jail: closed most of the time to volunteers. Haven't been able to get books/meetings in. Only open to two of the men's dorms. Seems staffing issue because so inconsistent, lack of interest in Kitsap. Get lit into Kitsap County Jail. They do not host the women's prison, majority of volunteers D43. Lot of inmates introducing themselves as just addicts. NA doesn't come into the prison currently but keeping eyes open for resources to NA (whichever 12-step program the inmate identifies with).

D55: challenge working with 12-step sponsorship program inside corrections facility. Still have back and forth with warden – proposal letter to start getting a program in place. Need more volunteers for 2 more facilities and covering 200 miles. Normal people want out, Voss trying to get back in.

D35: Sammamish/Issaquah. Helped created AA/NA programs from inside. A lot of inmates inside don't understand how to share, trauma dump, no one to talk to – can just speak to experience. Kick off meeting sharing “how to share.” One jail in Issaquah. Ship to King County or Issaquah. 10-years ago, thriving corrections opportunities, committee chairs, and then new sergeant/staff member that shut everything down. Haven't been able to get back in for several years. Now able to make literature back in (crack in the door). One of the more successful corrections chairs still involved in district.

D33: Kent, Auburn, Maple Valley, Black Diamond. Missed most of last year for meetings but back into service now.

D28: Lewis County, couple facilities been managing: Shehalis Tribal Jail, unable to go into county. Normal traffic moved to Shehalis. Lot of inmates in small jail spread throughout the county. Meeting going very well. Finally able to get woman's meeting in. Women's liaison, Pam, great – coordinates the volunteers, rideshares, etc. Men's meeting well attended. Gentleman with highest attendance recently released, living in Seattle, working, has an apartment, going to meetings, back with family life – reacclimated to society. Two liaisons from D28 Cedar Creek is being absorbed into district. All run by the inmates. Going great over there. PLBB big hit at Cedar Creek.

D42: no facilities in district but helps in other regions. Going to district about a theme for buttons and t-shirts (2028 bid). Been waiting for Lynnwood facility open (close to Shoreline and Lake Forest Park).

D18: Renton and Kent - Kent Jail, RJC. Mostly on autopilot, volunteers not needed.

Pierce County Corrections: facilities continue to open for meetings. Prerelease requests have slimmed down but continued facilitation. Committee out of pink can funds. Still have general fund but could use more group and lit donations. As more facilities open, need more volunteers. Western Psychiatric, Puyallup Tribal, Raymond Hall, Purdy (Leah to send report)

D54: Enumclaw Jail not on regular basis yet. Foot back in door good – been since 2010 since we've been in there. Trying to figure out what's going on with Kent RJC. Bunch of volunteers qualified to go in but then radio silence for 6-8 months. Made eligible but then declared ineligible after 6 months. Primary concern staffing (want double coverage in jail), need to be officer in cell with them. Coordinating with inmate from Attica, NY, gets out Dec 2026. Sent lit but due to soaking pages with fentanyl, cannot send in anymore.

D37: Clark County, D7 and D37. Have not been into any jails or juvenile since COVID. Can drop off literature. Had a meeting schedule for yesterday with juvenile director but postponed. First meeting with them. Would have room to host an in-person meeting. Whole jail structure switched from sheriff to county. Don't care about AA. All about finding someone sympathetic or knowledgeable of AA – going through organization hasn't worked. On prerelease person upcoming May.

D15: corrections committee King County Jail. Pre-COVID very robust with many facilities and volunteers. Progress very slow to get meetings into facilities post-COVID. King County Jail hasn't had a men's AA meeting. Women going to RJC.

D36: North Bend to Duvall. Snow Valley AA. By attending meetings, learned about 4 people with corrections experience. One has been to Kent facilities; others traveled abroad to national corrections meetings. D34 corrections workshop. Letter from corrections chair posted to district. Echo – got a women's meeting into there. Meeting put on pause after renovations. When staffing changes, everything goes into whirlwind. No meeting since January but able to host one since April 2025. Trying to get men's meeting – facility will approve and then radio silence. Goals: corrections workshop in district. Close to Issaquah, Renton, Kent. Don't have to live in district to attend meetings.

D46: Anacortes and Island Counties. All is well in Island County Jail. Participation with men and women. Recently, got a phone call back from Island County Juvenile Detention Center to discuss bringing a meeting in. District still carries message to Twin Rivers. Go in on Thursday night and Sunday mornings. Trying to co-host the next quarterly.

D4: Skagit County – haven't been able to get into Skagit County Jail. Going into juvenile detention – 12 volunteers every Wednesday – send 2-3 people in. Lot of volunteers asking

about how to get into the jail. 7 people right now go to Twin Rivers. Locked up room for June quarterly. PUD building in Mt. Vernon.

D22: Clallam, Sequim, Port Angeles, Forks – 4 facilities, Juvi, city jail, 2 prisons. Juvenile Hall no meetings because of staffing. Greatly approved – spoke with coordinator – back on status quo. Lost some volunteers because of temporary shutdown but good there again. City jail going well for men and women's side. Preliminary workshop on refocusing primary goals with city jail. More group therapy than AA meeting often. Talk about problems, rather than the solution. Internal inventory and workshop. Prisons Clallam Bay and OCC – understanding that it's going very well, limited volunteers. Orientation for end of April. Personnel resources: more people in Seattle than whole county of Clallam. A little stretched thin. How to make available to a greater audience?

Greater Seattle Intergroup: 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 24, 31, 32, 33, 40, 41, 42 – monthly meetings hybrid and in-person. Same problems as everyone else. RJC open in Kent. Craig stepped down as facility coordinator. New lady stepped up to help with it. Not getting much of a response. Spoke with D14 to see if she can help communicating. 2 work release centers in Seattle and Beacon Hill that haven't had meetings since COVID. In process getting reopened for meetings. Hoping it can be open in a couple months. Challenges getting volunteers. Committee previously vibrant but so many challenges getting facilities reopened, enthusiasm dwindled. Difficulty getting facilities with enough staffing to keep meetings consistent. AA meetings not as prioritized with so many facility staffing challenges. Attended D16 monthly meeting recently – Federal Detention Center volunteer recognition dinner and orientation. Men's and women's meetings same time Thursdays in Sea-Tac. Juvenile Detention Center struggling with boy's meetings – trying to recruit younger men for those meetings. Add more informational pieces to monthly meetings. Securus presentation.

Keith: how to get back into facilities. Casual conversations with police and judges. Keith's experience if have experience with judges. When Keith got sober, went to the judges that knew him to tell them about his solution. Clallam Bay gets tablets. Some of the lifers have never dealt with screens ever before. Keith asked coordinator if she can help the inmates with the tables but doesn't know what's on there. Can write a simple set of instructions on how to use the tablet – get to Daily Reflections. Very well received by inmates. Will look at it every day and then can explore the app. There could be tablets in the facilities that inmates aren't using – pass along a set of instructions on how to use.

D24: South Snohomish County – Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace. Lynnwood City Jail (new facility). Have rooms ready to host meetings but issues with staffing. Keeping supplied with literature. Prerelease contacts for that area? Robert had a list of names.

D34: Corrections workshop to be held March 29th. Bellevue Eastside Alano Club hybrid in-person and Zoom. 2pm-5pm. Panel and then Q&A. Lot of people interested in learning more about corrections. Looking for someone to fulfill the commitment in the district.

D38: Kirkland Jail – missing about a third of meetings due to staffing challenges at the jail. Require an officer to sit outside the room. Luckily for Kirkland Jail, sergeant responsible for the meetings very supportive of the meetings. Switched meeting to 6:30 and now able to get meetings about 80% of the time. With more consistency, higher turnout. Keeping literature stocked in English and Spanish. One of the officers that goes into the meeting, comments that a few Spanish speaker that wanted to attend the meeting but cannot read English or understand English very well. Anyone able to have translation services / Spanish speaker that can attend and translate? D57 (Spanish district) active in corrections?

Aimee report: gets emails from normies out there. They go to corrections on Area 72 email. Woman who works for DOC. District 39 (Woodinville) step down juvenile facility interested in bringing meetings in. Aimee taking point on getting someone into the meeting. Contact very vague as to which institution it is. Is this common? When these things come up, variables because facility with minors. Woodinville Community Facility?

New Business:

How much money left for Area 72 literature? \$8000/annual budget. Aimee to find out how much we have left and April quarterly. Once we have that info, Aimee can send out. Daily Reflections on back order. Placing order but timeline TBD.

Inside sponsorship: California H&I committee speaker. Gave us access to all the training modules for corrections sponsorship. Do we want to do anything with it and/or start a committee? Different positions underneath umbrella. Topic comes up at the women's meetings often. What is it exactly? Volunteer vs. visitor - gathers AA list of visitors that understand their information is given as a sponsor. DOC point of view: volunteer can't be a part of the inside. Has anyone been a volunteer at DOC that can participate? If not an active volunteer / unpaid employee, can be a sponsor. Not Area 72 AA funding required. Aimee considering asking the area if they would volunteer for something like this. As part of quarterly report, Aimee can ask if AA's would be interested in sponsoring members in corrections. Clallam Bay maximum security "hard no," but minimum might be interested. The way Cali based it, people who are sponsors would be regular visitors. If someone incarcerated, X number of visitors allowed on visitation list. Private meeting area for 5th steps? Understanding from modules, facility aware that step work is happening. Committee to explore whether this is something we want to do. Jason: working 5th step in visitor room, while less than ideal, isn't necessarily going to want guards to know what is

happening. “Guards are out to get us.” Important for incarcerated people to have a separation between staff and inmates. How is the connection made to a sponsor? Volunteers to the facilities would need to operate as a liaison to the sponsors. Cali H&I did they have to set up with each prison individually?

Ad Hoc Committee to investigate modules and implementation of sponsorship program in correctional facilities: Jennifer S, Natalie, James, Maryann, Maria, Kerilee

Process: volunteers at institutions would announce to inmates “Does anyone want an outside sponsor?” And then corrections volunteers would connect inmates to AA’s that want to sponsor. Could be a different process at each institution, per warden rules.

Federal Detention Center: does not know / no relationship / at time when there (standard DOC).

Securus: platform used to communicate with people who are incarcerated, much easier to communicate than via snail mail. Easy to use – any smart device – legal first and last name, date could be collected, privacy policy that’s that the app/company may use info collected for any purpose (data, cookies, etc.). Chats stored for years. Video calls could be used by law enforcement to exploit the software and access private info on a user’s device. Recommendation not to use video feature and chat only. Right of decision for trusted servants. Cost: purchase to use electronic stamp that can respond only to the original sender. 60 stamps = 30 messages (2 stamps per message: one stamp outbound and one inbound) is \$10 + processing fee of \$3/purchase. How to support cost and reimbursement incurred regarding Securus usage? Part of the path of technological future. The staff that reads the mail, searches the cells, scans the messages, manages the inmates. When sending a message, asks to attach a stamp? Yes, message sends, inmate can respond.

App has all information. Previous prerelease did not approve of Securus for terms and conditions. Worth taking a deep dive on the terms and be sure how much information is being sent to Securus. Bob F: issue of anonymity and what level are AA’s comfortable with? Securus will require some level of anonymity that will not be respected: give information to a for profit agency and need to be OK with it. Shouldn’t expect everyone to be comfortable with giving up anonymity. Variable with AA partnering with a for-profit company that is using AA’s information: sell data, take information down, etc. However, “long way in, long way out” and tool to facilitate communication. Tradition violation for affiliation? Just using Securus does not make us an affiliate of Securus. Not a representative of Securus. What is affiliation? Not to link names or personal names to an outside organization, not considered an affiliation. Also, traditions are suggestions and open to interpretation.

General discussion about Securus anonymity and how much willing to give up? General Service Office has endorsed/allowed Securus for corrections committees to use. How is Securus anonymity being handled for AA by General Service Office? Is AAWS a publisher allowed to send literature? WA DOC most GSO literature available on the prisoner tablets for free. WA DOC must come from Amazon, approved distributor, not private package.

Turning point for AA: self-supporting through our own contributions. Can download all our tools, why buy them? Western WA on cutting edge of discussion regarding these tools, conversations and to include GSO. Allows GSO to continue dialogue and share experience with rest of AA. “Any step towards digital becomes less personal?” James: technology is as real on the inside as outside. Reading, communication, tools are all electronic on the tablets. Mail system completely wrecked after fentanyl use rising. Letters may or may not actually be given to the inmates. Electronic is the most reliable way for inmates to receive communication. Receiving mail could be flagged for suspicion for any reason or no reason at all – mail can create a whole mess of problems for inmates. “Tablet is everything.” For sponsorship program, how are the inmates going to get in contact with sponsor? Through Securus. “Swimming upstream on the inside.” Outreach to sponsor needed daily; call, communication, message – reach out to sponsor – all communication is through Securus.

How much communication is technology vs. in-person regarding? Possibility of mail service ending in the coming year(s). Part of discussion on whether all communication and mail become electronic. Start conversations now vs. later. Matter of convenience now – easier for prerelease to use the Securus account; information passed along within 5 minutes. Not much of a difference between mail being read vs. message being read. All phone conversations are recorded.

Technology as a tool for “sharing the message.” Turn down a communication tool (Securus) when can carry the message. Women’s prison: one girl has gone through the steps via phone call. She is out now, but towards the end, the calls she was making to the outside were being blocked (DOC or T-Mobile?). Steps were going smoothly and then the last few attempts wouldn’t go through. James: some carriers will simply just block the calls. Random – can work for a while and then just don’t work. Will be repaired for a week and then just goes down again.