

## NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL/ZOOM CUMUMLATIVE MEETING MINUTES, 2021

**THE NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING** takes place the first and last Sunday of the month at 5pm CST and the remaining Sundays at 10am CST.

**If you have any questions, concerns, or topic suggestions, call or email:**

Chair: Stacy C. at 704-361-2755, [correctionsarea27@gmail.com](mailto:correctionsarea27@gmail.com)

Secretary: Laura S.: 612-309-8385, [nationalcorrectionsall@gmail.com](mailto:nationalcorrectionsall@gmail.com)

### ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR****Secretary: Jenn B, A44 for Laura S, Area 36****Chair:** Stacy C. Area 27 LA**Timekeeper:** John L. Area 47 NY**Speaker:** Mike S. Area 45 NJ**Concept Speaker:** Chenoa T. Area 37 MS**Topic Speaker -** Stacy C. Area 27 LA**Speaker:** Mike S. - Area 45, NJ - Shared his story and introduction to corrections' service work.

Sobriety date 9/11/96. At 24 years sober, Mike is grieving the loss of his aunt, who died just yesterday. Mike has had members of both the Alanon and AA program to lean on. He knew what to do. Mike came from a family of male drinkers. Drugs were frowned upon. He started drinking young, drifted between friends, started and stopped sports, and felt like a loner. He hid his blackout drinking the best he could. After starting college at Rutgers University, then quitting, Mike started getting arrested. He never faced charges on disorderly conduct or assaulting a police officer. More serious events started to follow: charges of car jacking while on heroin, car crashes, and hallucinations. Mike then "went after" a couple in a park (Doctor and his pregnant wife) wanting a ride somewhere. He was arrested, spent several days in jail, and was facing prison time. Pre-trial intervention allowed Mike to seek help. Mike entered Rutgers University again, lived in a sober house for 3.5 years and participated in counseling. His life was changing. Mike eased into the prison work through someone he knew in the program. Eleven years into working with those in prison, Mike has "learned about himself, I am just like them." Mike has helped recruit new volunteers and start new meetings in various facilities. Mike said the Responsibility Pledge is "so real."

**Concept 5 speaker:** Chenoa T. - Area 37, MS

Chenoa referenced a Grapevine article which Bill Wilson wrote in 1950  
(<https://silkworth.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Your-Third-Legacy-Dec-1950.pdf>).

"Concept 5 is a democratic concept which calls for 'checks and balances' of unqualified authority from running unrestrained" ([https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/en\\_bm-31.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_bm-31.pdf)).

Issues were raised such as allowing kids, pets, and smoking, which divided the group. Chenoa was nervous to speak up as it might not change the vote, but realized it would “give them food for thought.” An example Chenoa gave to solidify this concept was raising her grandson. If he did something wrong and faced heavy punishment, he always came back and she let him give his opinion. He has graduated college and they have a beautiful life.

### **Announcements:**

**Stacy C.** Announced again that the NCC Conference 11/12-11/14 will have a virtual registration option via the website <https://nationalcorrectionsconference.org>. \$25 virtual, \$35 in-person. At least 49 people have registered thus far. Amy G asked for the flyers to be updated to include the virtual option, Stacy will make the changes and will include the panel information.

*Stacy challenges all of us to get 2 people to sign up for virtual registrations.*

Non-program folks allowed to the conference and other activities? YES

Transportation to downtown and possibly a tour guide will be available. ***Tour guide service position is open, contact Stacy.***

### **Dennett downtown recommendations:**

Museum, river boat rides, River Walk ([alltrails.com](http://alltrails.com)), Cathedral ( [stlouiscathedral.org](http://stlouiscathedral.org)), River boat ride, Cafe Du Monde for beignets and coffee ( [shop.cafedumonde.com](http://shop.cafedumonde.com) ).

**Topic Speaker:** Stacy C. - Traditions in the prison system.

Stacy shared that the traditions were being discussed at Angola State Prison before Covid hit. The conference call meeting, which takes place on Saturdays, is made up of men who have been locked up from 20-45 years. “Why do we want to do Traditions?” The men at Angola feel this is “their meeting.” If AA (outside members) is not there, they can continue. Stacy said, “Can you imagine being locked up with no sponsor? “We feel obligated to give them everything we have - the same opportunity.” “The men are unified when they are in the meetings and the hope is that they carry that unification to the yard.”

If you are interested in joining this conference call, please contact Stacy C. This meeting is attended by the Warden so AA cannot afford a mistake. Thus, the call information should not be given to anyone before talking to Stacy.

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### **Comments:**

**Scotty B:** The topic is all about unity. “We are invited guests. They have structure and it is beautiful to be part of it.” A gentleman Scotty was sponsoring via the Corrections Correspondence Program talked to him about starting a meeting inside his facility. He has since

started the meeting and facilitating it! "Transformation needs to happen before they are released." "All the direction, structure, and guidance we have on the outside, give them on the inside."

**Chenoa:** Traditions being spoken at Angola blew her mind.

**John L:** Loves to hear the General Service structure. Tradition 2 tells them to cooperate with the prison staff, but they are not the ultimate authority, God is. Anonymity does not go to the yard.

**Joe W:** Looking into federal facilities. Will report back.

**Mike S:** Maintaining a good relationship with anyone who can be helpful to you and AA is essential. It can also open the door to help another alcoholic.

**Dennett:** Likes how interwoven the concepts and steps are and that we can bring them to every place possible behind the walls. Dennett teaches steps 1-4 via drug court then brings in other men to hear their 5th step.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** 5/29 - Upper Fraser Valley Corrections Roundup 9am-5pm PST. Zoom ID: 285 909 9992, PW: 427248. 5/30 Corrections Corner District 43 (Scotty P speaking) 6pm PST Zoom ID: 240 916 8319 PW: 122820.

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**New to the meeting:** Laetitia ("Tish") Burns from CA and Monique L from MN.

**In attendance:**

Amy Gurske Area 47 NY

Chenoa T., Area 37 MS

Cheri S., Area 2 AK

Christopher C., Area 49 NY

Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon

Dave Lorenzini, Area 44 NJ

Dennett Rodrigue Area 27 LA

Donaugh O., Area 49 NY

Fred Seebold Area 3, AZ

Holly Hanna, Area 92 WA

Jennifer Buzzi, Area 44 NJ

Joe Schmitt, Area 36 MN

John Lattimer, Area 47 NY

Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 CT

Ken Payton, Area 61 GA

Kris Fox, Area 30 MA

Laetitia Burns, Area 5 CA

Laura Skaaland, Area 36 MN

Lucas O., Area 49 NY

Lynn B., Area 6 CA

Mike S., Area 45 NJ

Mimi Tatsumi, Area 5 CA

Monica F., Area 19 IL

Monique L., Area 36 MN

Richard Johnson, Area 36 MN

Roland Ruffin, Area 67 TX

Scotty Baker, Area 49 NY

Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>May 16, 2021 10:00 AM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Jenn B, A44 for Laura S, Area 36**

**Chair: Scotty B.**

**Timekeeper:** John L.

**Speaker:** Devin C. NY

Devin grew up feeling like everyone else seemed to “get life,” but he always felt like something was wrong with him. When Devin started drinking, he felt as though he could “take a deep breath” and “be a little bit in this world.” In 2011, after years of drinking, drugging, and missed opportunities for his music career, Devin had a suicide plan but was “not ready to die” at 24 years old. Devin reached out to Will, the “happy guy from Hawaii.” Devin met Will while he was in treatment as a teenager. Devin sensed that Will genuinely cared about and listened to people. Will just simply told him, “AA works for me.” Will was Devin’s example of how AA can work because he “exuded happiness and freedom.” Subsequently, Devin had a physical reaction to the Serenity Prayer at his next meeting. Devin described his reaction as one he has never felt before other than through his art form (music). Devin started going into Rikers Island, then Sing Sing Prison. He quickly realized the inmates’ experiences could have easily been his. “Nothing separates me from them.” Devin shared that the prison service work has changed his life, enriched his recovery as he learned about himself and his prejudices. “Treat them like a person and look them in the eye!”

**Concept 5 speaker:** Spencer H., Area 49 GA

Spencer shared about the importance of the right to decision, the right to appeal, and expressing opposing opinions. Spencer gave an example of Intergroup purchasing a Zoom license. There were many opposing opinions for varying reasons. There were many supporting opinions, for varying reasons. Spencer felt it was important not to make people feel as though an in-person meeting is better than an on-line meeting. There are populations of people who cannot physically attend in-person meetings, even after the pandemic: disability, distance, lack of transportation, lack of local meetings, etc... Zoom has opened an opportunity for many.

**Topic Speaker:** Mike S., Area 45 NJ - Sharing behind the walls.

Mike shared about the various “types” of AA attendees/situations he has encountered, and learned from, since he has been doing correctional service:

- The person in the back is usually the one paying attention.
- When you are in the middle of a powerful meeting, but the time is up and you have to close the meeting. Mike has never found the phrase, “we will pick this up next week” to be true. It is very difficult to cannot recreate that same energy.
- The “Expert:” The one who thinks he knows it all and shares for a long time. Mike said he is never shy about cutting them off after a certain period of time, but he will try to incorporate some of his share into the meeting.

- The “Evangelist:” the person who preaches to the group with great enthusiasm.
- Familiarity: When an inmate starts getting to close physically or through information, put literal and figurative distance between you.
- Silence is your friend.
- There are many ways to practice your religion and/or find your Higher Power.
- Respect their experience: Even-though many inmates will say to volunteers, “You would not understand,” which may be true, but we can still create a bond.
- The person who talks too much and interrupts the meeting: Mike has found that it is ok to stop them, get the meeting back on track, and give the others the opportunity to share, if they care to.
- The “Challengers:” ask the correctional officers to walk by the meeting more.
- Short readings.

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### Comments:

Ed - do not assert your will [while you are in a correctional facility AA meeting].

Scotty B - there has been a moment when I lost my temper and asked the inmates to be quiet because it was too loud with the pay phones and TV in the same area.

Joe - stick to 2 criteria: how we got sober and how we stay sober.

Chenoa - keep it real and stick to the traditions. Listen out of respect.

Cliff - someone was getting to close by hugging him. An inmate who was reading a magazine told another to shut up and listen. So you never know who is paying attention. Another inmate, who was the “AA Golden child,” was removed from the meeting due to notes and talking. The inmate threatened Cliff that he had the power to have him removed from the meeting. This inmate was found to have a weapon in his shoe.

Devin - referenced page 102 in the Big Book:

“Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most **sordid spot on earth** on such an errand. **Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed.**”

Bahiyyah: Respect that's all they got. Stress the importance of unity and they are welcomed. Regarding drugs in AA: They can share in a general way as to how they used drugs and alcohol. They want to test who we are - are we genuine, coming from our hearts or are we just another "screw." Someone referred to inmates as "monsters," but Bahiyyah then asked them, "do monsters cry quietly in the middle of the night?"

Stacy - **National Corrections Conference** update: There are now virtual registrations (\$25.00) available on the website: [nationalcorrectionsconference.org](http://nationalcorrectionsconference.org) (11/12-11/14). **BUT COME IN PERSON IF YOU CAN, IT IS GOING TO BE A GOOD TIME! Scotty guarantees it! LOL.**

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**In attendance:**

Amy Gurske Area 47 NY

Bahiyyah Wright, Area 67, TX

Chenoa T., Area 37 MS

Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon

Dave Lorenzini, Area 44 NJ

Dennett Rodrigue Area 27 LA

Devin C.

Don Smith, Area 27 LA

Donaugh O., Area 49 NY

Ed Mullholand, Area 49 NY

Gale R., Toronto

Holly Hanna, Area 92 WA

Jennifer Buzzi, Area 44 NJ

John Lattimer, Area 47 NY

Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 CT

Ken Payton, Area 61 GA

Laura Skaaland, Area 36 MN



Lucas O., Area 49 NY

Lynn B., Area 6 CA

Mike S., Area 45 NJ

Norman Loffer, Area 57 OK

Patrick M., Area 5 CA

Richard Johnson, Area 36 MN

Rito Valdez, Area 67 TX

Roland Ruffin, Area 67 TX

Scotty Baker, Area 49 NY

Spencer H., Area 49 GA

Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING**

**May 9, 2021  
10:00 AM CST**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Jenn B, A44 for Laura S, Area 36**

**Chair:** Stacy C.

**Timekeeper:** John L.

**Speaker:** Debbie M. Nashville TN - AA picked her up when she was paroled from prison. Combined with the fact that Debbie learned of AA while serving time in prison, this is a quintessential "Bridging the Gap" story. As a passionate volunteer, Debbie stresses, "If the hand of AA reaches out for help, suit up and show up!" Debbie spent her 23 year career working for a drug court program in Nashville, TN.

Contact info: (615) 500-3187

**Concept 5 speaker:** Connie H., TX - "We all wish to be heard, to be acknowledged and considered. Alcohol took away my voice, actually I had little if anything of value to say anyway, but now that I am sober and my thought patterns are clearer, my ability to voice my ideas and opinion is more reliable..."

**Topic Speaker:** Joe W. - The importance of the Corrections Workbook (57 pages, link below).

Pg4: How to do corrections work. Pg7: Goals and Objectives. Pg11: Meet with warden. Pg14: How to conduct a sharing session. Pg15: Youth detention centers. Pg18: How to start new corrections' group. Pg24: Facility Fact sheet. Pg 31: Area Corrections Committee Plan. Pg32: Singleness of purpose. Pg44: Corrections' Correspondence Program. Pg46-51: Participation, presentations, professional communities... Pg53-54: List of AA publications. Pg55: Non-AA resources.

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/m45i\\_WorkbookCorr.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/m45i_WorkbookCorr.pdf)

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#### **Comments:**

Joe W. Mentioned NY is starting a ***drug court for veterans***.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/brad-hoylman/ny-senate-passes-hoylman-bill-create-universal-access-veterans>

Scotty B. mentioned the Corrections Workbook is outdated (copyright 1995) but is a great resource.

Cliff T. suggested the old Corrections' Workbooks should be destroyed so only current information is available.

Mike S. shared how important it is for volunteers to consistently follow (all) prison rules to help strengthen and maintain healthy relationships with the corrections' officers.

Thornton S. confirmed the 2021 ***Oklahoma Corrections Conference*** was recorded and will be available on the website ([okcorrectionsconference.com](http://okcorrectionsconference.com)) via Dropbox as of 5/10/21. The 2020 conference is also available.

Stacy - ***National Corrections Conference*** update: they are considering renting a bus to transport those who wish to go to Angola State Prison on Thursday Nov. 11. If you plan to go to Angola, please text/call Stacy @ (704) 361-2755 to let her know if you are willing to chip in approx. \$25.00 to rent the bus. Additionally, if you plan to go to Angola, arrive Wednesday night Nov 10, as they are leaving very early Thursday morning.

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**In attendance:**

Bahiyyah Wright, Area 67, TX  
Brad S., A47 NY  
Callie Howe, Area 57 OK  
Chenoa T., Area 37 MS  
Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon  
Connie H, TX  
Debbie M., Area 64 TN  
Don Smith, Area 27 LA  
Donaugh O., Area 49 NY  
Ed Mullholand, Area 49 NY  
Jay E, Area 79 BC/Yukon  
Jennifer Buzzi, Area 44 NJ  
John Lattimer, Area 47 NY  
Joseph Schmitt, Area 36 MN  
Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 CT  
Ken Payton, Area 61 GA  
Kris Fox, Area 30 MA  
Laura Skaaland, Area 36 MN  
Lucas O., Area 49 NY  
Lynn B., Area 6 CA  
Michael Dillon, Area 79 BC/Yukon  
Mike S., Area 45 NJ  
Patrick M., Area 5 CA  
Richard Johnson, Area 36 MN  
Rito Valdez, Area 67 TX  
Roland Ruffin, Area 67 TX  
Scotty Baker, Area 49 NY  
Sherri P., Area 65 TX  
Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA  
Thornton Shackelford, Area 57 OK

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>May 2, 2021 5:00 PM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Jenn B, A44 for Laura S, Area 36**

## NCC Meeting May 2, 2021

**Chair:** Scotty B.

**Timekeeper:** John L.

**Speaker:** Johnnie C. NYC - "You took everything from me (in prison @ 9 years sober), but you cannot take my sobriety."

**Concept 5 speaker:** Felicia S. - allowing the minority voices to be heard and give AA balance.

**Topic Speaker:** Jay E. - Mental Health and Incarceration

If anyone would like a copy of the statistics Jay was referencing in his talk, please email him @ [corrections@district43aa.org](mailto:corrections@district43aa.org)

Dave A. Mentioned there is a great pamphlet (P-87) related to this topic, "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues - and their Sponsors."

Dave L. provided the link to this pamphlet:

[https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-87\\_AAforAlcoholicswithMentalHealthIssues.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-87_AAforAlcoholicswithMentalHealthIssues.pdf)

**New members / add to distribution list:** Felicia S. ([F.sussman@icloud.com](mailto:F.sussman@icloud.com))

Priscilla, Ithaca ([pawalker5@gmail.com](mailto:pawalker5@gmail.com))

Tammy asked if anyone would like to write their story for a VT newsletter, A New Freedom. Her email address is [tammyleewood@gmail.com](mailto:tammyleewood@gmail.com) or [area70corrections@aavt.org](mailto:area70corrections@aavt.org). Phone number is (802) 355-0888.

### In attendance:

Amy G., Bahiyyah Wright, Area 67, TX, Bob Linsey, Area 38, Brad Smith, Area 20, Christopher C. Area 49, Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC, Dave Allen., Area 81 New Brunswick, Dave Lorinzini, Area 44 NJ, Donough, Ed Mullholand, Felicia S., Area 44 NJ, Fred Seebold, Area 03 AZ , Grace B., Jay E, Area 79 D43 Canada, Jennifer Buzzi, A44 NJ, Johnnie C., Area 49 NY, John Lattimer, Area 47 NY , Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 CT, Ken Payton, Area 61 GA , Lynn B., CA, Mike S., Area 45 NJ , Norman Loffer ., Area 57, Patrick M, CA, Paul C., Priscilla, NY, Richard Johnson, Area 36 MN, Roy England, Area 67 TX, Sam Smith, Area 47, Schweyermt, Scotty Baker, Area 49 NY, Sherri P., Area 65 TX, Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA, Steve G., Sue. P, Tammy

NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING

April 25, 2021  
5:00 PM CST

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Jenn B, A44 for Laura S, Area 36**

**In attendance April 25, 2021**

**Speakers: Patrick, Morris and Roland.**

Amanda Croft A2, D11 AK, Bob W., Brad Smith, Area 20 D22 BTG , Bryan Barnhart, Area 92 Yakima WA, Chenoa T, A37 MS, Claudia B., LA CA, Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon D45 Corrections Chair , Cheri Shrader, Delegate, Area 02, Crystal Dixon, Area 79 BC/Yukon, Deborah JS, Don Smith, Area 27, Eddie Mullholand, Fred Seebold, Area 03 AZ Jay E, Area 79 D43, District Corrections Chair, Jennifer Buzzi, A44 NJ, John Lattimer, Area 47 SENY Corrections Chair, Joseph Schmitt, Area 36 S MN District Corrections Chair, Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 Bridgeport CT, Lucy P, NYC NC, Lynn B/SF, CA, Matt S, Michelle Hills, D10, Area 48, Morris A. Ray, Patrick M, Corrections Director, Los Angeles H&I, Richard Johnson, Area 36 S MN Area Corrections Chair, Roland Ruffin, Area 67 SETA Corrections Chair, 2021, Ron Leslie, Area 80 Corrections Liaison East; BTG Liaison East, Rose W, Gulfport MS, Sam Smith, Area 47, Area Treatment Co-Chair, Scotty Baker, Area 49 SE NY Corrections Chair, NYC NY, Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA Corrections Chair Shreveport LA, Steve Nylander, Area 75 S WI, D17 Corrections Chair, Tressa White, Area 45 S NJ New Jersey, Tyler D7, Vermont

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING**

**April 18, 2021  
10:00 AM CST**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

No Minutes

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING**

**April 11, 2021  
10:00 AM CST**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

Stacy C. Facilitator

John L. Time Keeper (to keeps us all on track)

Stacy C. Opens the meeting with the Serenity prayer

Gives Intro into the type of meeting and general information on the length of time (timed mtg. 1.5 hours)

Asks for any newcomers to the meeting: Tom P. (N.C.) and Debbie from Nashville, TN. were welcomed by the group

Gives a format for the weekly meeting: and announces our speaker Fred S. A03, AZ.

Fred S. Shares his personal story of what his life looked like prior and after coming to the program (approx.. 20 mins.).

Great job!

Stacy C. Announces Woody R. (Stockton, CA) will share on Concept Four: "The Right Of Participation"

Woody R. Does a wonderful job sharing on Concept 4 in a way that was laid out for all to follow and understand. A fabulous job!

Stacy C. Questions or comments from anyone to our speakers (Fred or Woody), one minute please

All who shared: Rita V. Houston TX.

Lynn B. S.F., CA.

Ed M. Area 49, NYC

Lucas O. Area 49 SENY

Scotty B. NYC

Joseph

Much and Gratitude was given to our speakers by them All!

Stacy C. Announces Laura (our Secretary)

Laura Asks the group for help to fill in for her during her absence on May 25<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> Jen and Amanda step up on the dates mentioned. Thanks everyone!

Stacy C. Update on upcoming Conference Nov. 12-14 (Fri-Sun)

The Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup> Kick-Off to Conference will be a possible trip to Angola on a bus if it can be arranged through

contributions for those who choose to attend and ride together. She says this is being looked at but not definitive.

We, (persons wanting to ride together on bus) could put up maybe \$25.00? Not sure just yet.

Erin G. Western PA. asked if her service dog (Vanilla Ice) could go into the facility with her? Stacy let her know she could

check on this matter and Joseph stated he thought a denial into the facility with her service dog could be appealed due to

disability laws. A few members stated that when dealing with jails and prisons they seem to have their Own entry clearances.

Stacy let us know that it is 24 acres called the "Farm" and has a Camel (left by a visiting organization) along with other

farm animals. Stacy turns meeting over to Ed Mulholland A49, NYC. Bridging The Gap/Pre-Release

Ed

Mulholland A49, NYC. Gives a brief share on Bridging the Gap vs. Pre-Release

Laura (Our Secretary) Shares in depth regarding separate entities (Bridging the Gap/Pre-Release) so many ways to do this.

Same thing with Treatment Centers. Laura really brought out some very good points. Great information!

Laura was asked about upcoming Zoom meeting where she is to share on Bridging the Gap (Info. given). Lucas

O. SENY shared on the subject of Bridging the Gap/Pre Release along with questions or comments from

Ed [M.NYC](#) and Lynn B/SF, CA.

Stacy C. Don't Forget the Oklahoma State Convention Saturday May 1, 2021. A member shouts out! "Stacy C. is a speaker there for the Convention."

Scotty B. Takes us out with the Responsibility Pledge

Your humble trusted

servant, Chenoa Trepagnier

( filling in for Laura our

Secretary)

## NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING

April 4, 2021  
05:00 PM CST

### MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING CHAIR

Secretary: Laura S, Area 36

Meeting Chair: Scotty B, A49

Speaker: Toby, A49

Concepts Presenter: Zac, A49

Spiritual Time Keeper: John L

Topic Leader: Sheri P, A65. Corrections 101

### No Minutes

## NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING

March 28, 2021  
05:00 PM CST

### MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING CHAIR

Secretary: Laura S, Area 36

**Meeting Chair:** Stacy

**Speaker:** Ken

**Concepts Presenter:** Bahiyyah

**Spiritual Time Keeper:** John L

**Participants:** Amanda C, A02; Amy G, A47; Bahiyyah W, A67; Barbara B, A52; Brad, A47; Chenoa T; Cheri S, A02; Claudia B; Cliff T, A79; Dave A, A81; Dave I, A44; Dennett R, A27; Don S, A27; Ed M, A49; Fred S, A03; Grace; Joe S, A36; Joe W, A48; John L, A47; Ken P, A16; Kris F, A30; Lamonte B; Lori A, A27; Laura S, A36; Luciana; Lynn B, A05; Matt; Michael D, A79; Michelle H, A48; Mike S, A45; Norman L, A57; Patrick M, A05; Richard J, A36; Sam S, A47; Scotty B, A47; Steve N; Stacy C, A27; Tammy W, A70; Tyler; Woody R; Zach G, A27.

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>March 21, 2021 10:00 AM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary:** Laura S, Area 3

**Meeting Chair:** Scotty B, A47

**Speaker:** Terry F

**Concepts Presenter:** Devin C, A49

**Spiritual Time Keeper:** John L, A47

**Participants:** Anthony C, A49; Bahiyyah W, A67; Brad A47; Bryan B, A92; Charlie B; Christian R, A49; Claudia B; Cliff T, A79; Crystal D; Darlene C; Dave A & Paul C, A81; Dave I, A47; Dennett R, A27; Dennis L; Devin C, A49; Don S, A27; Holly H, A92; Jay E, A79; Jen B, A44; John L, A47; Joe W, A48; Josh L, A75; Ken P, A16; Kris F, A30; Lana G; Laura S, A36; Lucas O, A 49; Lynn B, A06 NorCal H&I; Michelle H, A48; Michael P; Mike S, A45; Mimi, A05; Norman L, A57; Pete M, A48; Richard J, A36; Rito V, A67; Stacy C, A27; Tammy W, A70; Thornton S, A57; Zach G, A27



<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>March 14, 2021 10.00 AM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**Meeting Chair:** Stacy C, A27

**Speaker:** Rito V, A67

**Concepts Presenter:** Jen

**Participants:** Amy G, A47; Bob L, USVI; Cheri S, A02; Christopher C; Cindy S, A03; Claudia, LA H&I; Dave L, A44; Erin G, A60; Fred S, A03; Holly H, A92; Jen B, A44; Joe S, A36; Joe W, A11; John L, A47; Kelly C, A11; Lana G; Laura S, A36; Lucas O, A49; Mike S, A45; Norman, A57; Richard J, A36; Rito V, A67; Roland R, A67; Roy E, A67; Scotty B, A49; Sherri, A65; Stacy C, A27; Steve N, A75; Tyler; Veronica C; Zach G, A27.

**Minutes not available.**

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>March 7, 2021 05:00 PM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**Meeting Chair:** Scotty B

**Speaker:** Jane D.

**Concepts Presenter:** Jane E.

**Spiritual Time Keeper:** John L

**Participants:** Amanda; Bahiyyah, A67; Barbara B, Area 51; Bob L, St Thomas USVI; Bryan B, Area 92; Christopher C, A49; Claudia B; Cliff, A79; Crystal; Dave L, A44; Dennett, A27; Don S, Area 27; Ed M; Emilio; Fred S, A03; Jane D, A14; Jane E; Joe S, A36; Joe W, A11; John L, A79; Ken P, A16; Laura, A36; Lindsey, A49; Lynn, CA; Michelle, A48; Mike S, A45; Mona W, A03, Patrick M, A05; Richard, A36; Sam, A47; Scotty B, A49; Sherri, A67; Stacy, A27; Steve N, A75; Toby, A49.

**Stacy**, chair of the National Corrections Conference, updated the status of hotel reservation link on the website ([nationalcorrectionsconference.org](http://nationalcorrectionsconference.org)). There may be an issue may be when

calling on the phone to make reservations vs making reservations on the website. Stacy will resolve the issue.

**TOPIC: What are the best topics to engage inside AAs.** Toby shared that sometimes they talk about AA and participants walk out. It's important to try to engage with people and have them sit with it. The Big Book says that if we have disturbed someone about their alcoholism this is all to the good. Toby went over his service history: He went into Rikers and in some of the jails he was with who people who were there up to 12 months. He didn't always see the same people time after time. When he did, he would tell his story and would get bored with it. ometimes read the BB. Cycled out of Rikers and got to the Queensboro Correctional Facility, a state facility. There it was a prison where people were cycling in out. They were coming from upstate to downstate. They were learning the internet and getting reacclimated. He tried to read the BB and other literature and told his story. It wasn't engaging. He did a step study took people through the 12 Steps. It was abbreviated because they weren't there long enough. They would not their Fourth Step because of the inside environment. They didn't go through with the 12 steps. Ended up doing service at the Edgecomb facility. There went to women's side of prison. It is a rehab and detox prison. He got traction by reading first three chapters of BB as well as Dr's Opinion. Trying to identify with people there. Had ten people a week. That was unheard of numbers that people would come back week after week. Topic is what works for you.

shared that it's different for every facility and the same facility week after the week. The format he likes is a two-speaker meeting. It worked. They felt safe. That kept it interesting. Difficult getting three people cleared but worth it. Started last Jan new meeting a fed facility in Manhattan when Intergroup CC and F committee. Took BBs in and they read them and shared.

Stacy shared she has experience with different security levels and different facilities except for federal. Most of them are different. Tom I. taught her that you have to develop programs specific to facility you're serving at. She loves watching people take over their own meetings when that is possible. When she started, she went to meeting herself for the first three years. She tried every possible thing to create engagement. Learned that she won't reach everyone. That's why she loves other people with her, so they'll hear someone.

**Ed** brings other speakers with him for diversity for identification. This is the easiest service commitment to do it. Went to Rikers and Kirby Psychiatric Center for the criminally insane. They have two different populations. Some will get out and some won't. He goes through chapters one through three. Tries to convey a sense of hope. Things are the same on the inside as outside. BB doesn't say read from the beginning. Says read chapter on alcoholism. Alcoholism is the disease of inappropriate actions that is described in chapter on alcoholism.

**John** shared that most of his experience is in max A/B with a steady group if inside members. They are 2-1/2 hour meetings. First half is a book meeting and second half it opens up. They begin with the group's history. They make the point about anonymity and confidentiality. There are few issues of someone repeating what is heard in the rooms. His favorite meetings are five-

minute speakers. Everyone goes to the podium to share. They rotate between inside and outside. It gives confidence to the new guy. Don't forget to bring sense of humor.

**Mike S** said Grapevine books are good. They have an inmate's group that creates unity within the groups. Another meeting in a less strict meeting and they can untuck their shirts and curse. It was huge. They opened it up and they welcomed it. They try to vary it. When reading whole chapters of the BB you lose guys. A page or two is best.

**Bahiyyah** shared she has gone into county and state facilities. It is a challenge going into the women's state where she had to be very stern. Tries to keep it to the first three Steps. They are going to be there a year or two. They have a baby and mothers bonding initiative (BAMBI unit) where mothers have the opportunity to live with their babies in a confined area with other women. Precovid, they tried to do book studies, but it was challenging because babies are there and it's noisy and distracting. Since covid they were able to get Zoom meetings approved. It is going well. Once a month they have a speaker. They are willing the Fourth on their knees, and the Sixth and Seventh on their knees. If they can get them through Steps Four and Five, they have a tool it would give them a shot at success. It's about getting connected when they get out.

**Fred S** goes to federal once a month. It is run by inmates—a regular AA meeting. Other meetings he goes to are two back-to-back jail meetings where he can bring in AA approved video and audio. He likes to mix it up, reading a couple paragraphs at a time. Sometimes he plays speaker tapes. They get their attention. He's only going to see them one time, so he brings a message of hope.

Joe W shared that all prisons are different except that federal regulations are standard. They have law libraries that corrections committees could bring AA literature to. If cleared at one BOP facility you are cleared at all. Raybrook doesn't have any AA meetings. Danbury didn't but Judge Form LA got it reopened. He wants to talk about what they are going to do when you get out. They want to hear how you got sober and stayed sober.

**Dennett** is part of International CC committee. He asked everyone to forward flyers to local central offices and bring to districts. The drug court service works with reintegration. He got literature to inside and to judges. He did two meetings—one was bisexual males and the other was female. They read Dr's Opinion (part of); More about Alcoholism (part); Twelve and Twelve. He got guys to come in and do Fifth Steps. He got sober while in drug court and they couldn't believe he was there facilitating the meetings. He is their success story.

**Jane E** shared that an AA service sponsor brought to her attention the issue of ICE facilities and how people are detained. She ordered literature from AAWS for an individual.

**Scotty closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR****Secretary: Laura S, Area 36****PARTICIPANTS**

Auggie; Amy G, A47; Bob L, St Thomas USVI; Bob W, A03; Bryan B, A92; Claudia B; Clifford T, A79; D Michael D, A37; Dave A, A81; Dave I; Dennett R, A27; Donagh O; Doug L, A51; Ed M; Fred S, A03; Holly H, A92; Jay A47; John L, A47; Joseph W, A11; Ken P, A16; Kris F, A30; Lana G; Laura S, A36; Lynn B, A6; Michael H, A80; Mike S, A45; Mimi T, A05; Norman L, A57; Pete, A48; Richard J, A36; Rito V, A67; Sarah P, A06; Scotty B, A47; Selena O, A51; Stacy C, A27; Steve N, A64; Toby, A49; Tressa, A45; Tyler; Woody R, NorCal H&I Finance

**Meeting Chair:** Stacy C**Speaker:** Selena O**Concepts Presenter:** Clifford T**Spiritual Time Keeper:** John L

**First time attendees:** Woody R, Policy Chair for NorCal H&I; Lynn, A6 NC BTG; Michelle, Upstate NY; Tyler, A70 Corrections Chair; Sarah P, A5; Claudia, Policy Member LA H&I; Doug Long, Charlotte NC Intergroup

Stacy gave National Corrections Conference updates: Hotel reservations can now be made through the NCC website at [www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org](http://www.nationalcorrectionsconference.org). She recommends attending the banquet Saturday night. The conference takes place Nov 12-14. If you come early you can go into Angola on Wednesday and Thursday. The hotel discounted rate is \$109 a night and refunds will be given if event doesn't occur. National Corrections Conference Advisory Board will make the decision to cancel. The question was asked if the event will be hybrid and Stacy doesn't know. The question was asked if vaccines will be required to go into Angola. Stacy has heard that inmates will need to be vaccinated to have interactions with anyone coming into the facility.

**TOPIC: Norman, OK, A57**, is their conference chair this year. His topic is how do we get people excited about volunteering and what topics can they use? He shared that he had a man he Eighth Stepped by email. The man was recently released, and they visited his mother's memorial and caught a meeting. The man shared about doing his work behind the walls and how the message was brought to him. It was a moving story about how he is living a sober life as a free man. That got people excited about serving in corrections. One of the keys is pulling at people's heart strings. This man gave a lot of people hope. One of the ways to generate excitement about corrections service is to get inmates to share what they get from us coming in to share the message.

The conference may be hybrid.

Norman wants ideas for topics and what they can do (conference/workshop) to generate excitement about serving in corrections. One of the things is safety in corrections. He said we are a valuable asset.

**Jay** remembers someone from inside that shared at the International in San Antonio. The Corrections Corner was started to attract volunteers. They are getting good speakers that can pull on heart strings and then they shift to people on the inside who share their story. Corrections Corner has questions after the speaker that people can interact with.

**Dennett**, A27 past corrections chair and ex-offender. He shared that one of the ways is through sponsorship and once they're in, they're hooked. Also, workshops where questions are answered. He asked people on the inside, "why do you want to come back?" He asks people on the outside, "why do you go in?" He is involved in drug court and some people are interested in staying involved in that. He likes the speakers statement about walking through things you're afraid off.

**Joe W** believes we can attract others to do corrections work by sharing the impact the work has had on our recovery. There is a lot of work to be in corrections. A benefit for Joe is the development of the virtue of patience. He is not in charge of system.

**Dave A** shared that we all have different opportunities in our Areas. The best thing we have is attraction. ETA (Excused Temporary Absences) allows them to take incarcerated individuals to assemblies, roundups, meetings, districts meetings. His first exposure was meeting and ex-offender who was the driver for ETA. Dave's been doing that same thing and it's is biggest part of his sobriety. They are the highlight--getting four or five guys on ETA. One hazard to that is they don't seem to be drawn to signing the paper. These guys are people--that's the exposure we try to give them. Sometimes it isn't received well; his area doesn't have an active corrections community, but Dave keeps talking about it. It is the best part of Dave's life. They are going to be in our community someday.

**Ed** shared the best way he knows of to get someone involved is to bring them in. He copies everyone on everything. They are potential corrections chairs.

**John** shared that there is nothing like the experience of getting inside. There is a presence in the meeting room. They are able to do a workshop during prison group anniversary on a gate pass. The invite alumni to come back to city and speak to our meetings and set out a table of things associated with groups at intergroup events. Sometimes, you need to ask nose to nose. Just announcing it won't do it.

**Stacy closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR  
Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Scotty B chaired the meeting and opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.**

**First time at meeting:** Emilio, A49 CTFC Chair; Toby, A49 Former CTF Chair; Erin, A60; Holly H, A92; Gale, A83; Charlie, A49 Corrections Chair; Veronica, A49; Regina, A60.

**Spiritual timekeeper:** John L

**Speaker:** Yvette, Former Delegate, A60

**Concepts Presenter:** Toby, A49

**Secretary:** Laura S, A36

**Stacy C**, Chair of the 2021 National Corrections Conference, New Orleans, November 11-13 clarified that the link for hotel reservations at the New Orleans Hilton Airport is not up yet, but reservations can be made by calling the hotel and referencing "Corrections Conference".

**Stacy** shared that beginning on March 7, on the first Sunday of every month the topic will be Corrections 101 March 7--Corrections 101. The topic will provide information of special interest to those new to corrections service positions.

**MEETING TOPIC, RE: DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE –WHAT HAS WORKED WELL IN THE US AND WHAT MAY WORK IN CANADA.**

*Ruth L, P87 Delegate, A87 gave two slide show presentations, one on America Prison Data Systems (APDS) and the other on Digital Distribution of Literature Throughout Canada. Both slide presentations are available by contacting [nationalcorrectionscall@gmail.com](mailto:nationalcorrectionscall@gmail.com). Ruth's email is [ruthllano1818@gmail.com](mailto:ruthllano1818@gmail.com).*

Ruth shared that APDS is a B Corp. AAWS and GV/LV are working with Market Partners.

**Ruth** provided history: She was invited by the board to put together a presentation on digital distribution of literature throughout prisons in North America based on information given at 70th GSC that she attended as P70 Delegate. The Conference Committee on Corrections

brought up the topic. As a Canadian, she asked if they had considered distribution of literature in Canadian prisons; the answer was that it was not discussed. This year the conversation has started.

**Scotty** shared that he got in touch with Cindy Parish of ADPS and was able to give her a link to information about AA that she could upload from aa.org to tablets to Rikers Island's teaching tablets. He helped her download PDFs and videos to tablets.

**John** shared that Pay is used in Upper NY. He asked, what is the status on JPay and how are inmates going to know the information is available?

**Ruth** answered that the latest information from AAWS and GV/LA is JPay merged with Securis to form technology company that provides communications, education and entertainment to the incarcerated population. Their service is for digital content and distribution in facilities. There is no upfront cost to the publisher or revenue to publisher. The status is that the account contract agreements were signed on Nov 18, 2020 by AAWS and GV and are awaiting JPay's signature. AAWS has weekly meetings to decide what that content might look like.

**John** asked, how will we be able to notify inmates?

**Ruth** responded that they will be discussing it further at 71st GSC. We can direct questions to Brenda B at the Correction Assignment Desk or Janet B of AAGV director. Ruth said it is an ongoing discussion.

**Joe W** asked how inmate obtain tablets.

**Ruth** answered that APDS provides mobile devices that use the private network the prison decides on. They are in 88 facilities.

**Joe W** asked if there has been any attempt to contact BOP in US.

**Ruth** responded that JPay serves more than 3,450 public safety and law enforcement agencies in 37 states in America with a total reach of up to 500,000 inmate with JPay and Securis and other digital terminals. Each institution decides what service they will work with.

**Jay** said he thought JPay was only for transferring money.

**Ruth** shared they are asking Market Partners International that works with Ingram Content Group, and other distributors, to learn what kind of initiatives they have begun with Canadian distributors.

**Stacy** said she is not clear on what the individual AAs action item is with regards to digital distribution of literature.

**Ruth** responded that it's to be inclusive, not exclusive. Things are working well in US. What Ruth needs is shared experience, brainstorming and ideas about how Canada can make this happen without internet access. For example, some ways things they have come up with in working with CSC is that AAWS has produced USBs with different forms of literature to upload to digital libraries. Members could have access to it that way.

**Stacy** shared that LA has JPay and asked if Ruth was saying all their inmates have access.

**Ruth** answered that it dependd on where they are with their initiatives and distribution of digital tablets or other forms of providing access to AA literature. It depends on individual institutions.

Stacy asked if it is free for inmate that have the table?

**Ruth** answered that JPay has been criticized widely for the rates they charge inmates. They have now merged with Scuris to form a technology company to change their image.

**Jen** asked if Ruth has encountered an issue where, as a volunteer, she has to sign an agreement that she's not going to interact with inmates as a visitor or by mail. Is there an issue with that?

**Ruth** answered we are allowed to provide prison friendly literature. We can't be on a visitor list and a volunteer list at some time. Around Covid and distribution of literate, we have now been given permission mail prison approved literature. That's only in certain institutions. As far as not being able to have tablet, one may benefit from routes taken in Canada, e.g., USB, audio or ebooks that can be uploaded to the facilities' digital libraries. If they use a VPN, it eliminates security concerns. Digital uploads to libraries eliminates the need for tablets.

**Cheri** shared there is an agenda item on sharing amongst the fellowship on innovative ways to carry the message into facilities. In Alaska, they've been hearing about digital literature in ME. Her hope is that we can have better sharing amongst ourselves about what is and what isn't working and that when AAWS and GV are able to establish contact with an institutions, the information gets communicated to corrections people in their areas. She brought it up and local corrections people were not aware of this information. AK is in same position as Canada with internet access.

**Joe W** shared he sent out \$7,000 worth of GV subscriptions to six different prisons. In US, all federal penitentiaries are required to have law libraries and if AA literature can be in the law libraries, inmates could access it that way.

**Ruth** said she would invite Cheri to let her know what vendors facilities are using if any facilities in AK are. Ruth can give Cheri updated information as she receives it.

**Yvette** asked why the flash drive is better than ebooks.

**Ruth** responded that in Canada, each institution chooses which way they upload and receive. Some are will willing to upload ebooks and others won't because of the cost. We have to have many different ways so when they shoot one down, we have other options to suggest.

**Joe S** shared that JPay, as he understands it, is a big money maker for the institutions and for JPay at the expense of inmates who are working for very low wages. He asked if the PCP (funded literature plans) will be able to contribute to the costs of accessing literature.

**Gail** asked when Ruth thinks we will be able access "A New Freedom." She's working on CCS. She's heard that in the US volunteers being able to volunteer through a parole office and the institution to coordinate audio meetings. She asked if Ruth has heard about that.



**Ruth** answered that with regards to CCS, there was information out there that CCS had to be cleared through CSC. She found that anyone can correspond as their legal constitutional right. They bring forms as literature (which is what they are). In the last year there has been an issue because literature has been locked away so no one can get access to the forms. Ruth suggested Gail bring the matter of having meetings through parole office to CSC.

***Scotty closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.***

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>February 14, 2021 10:00 AM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Brad, A47; Bob L, A38; Bryan B, A92; Cheri S, A 02; Cliff T, A79; Darlene C, A44; David; David L, A 44; David; Don S, A 27; Fred S, A03; Isaac, A44; Jay E, A79; Joe S, A36; Joe W, A11; John L, A47; Ken P, A16; Kris F, A30; Lana G; Laura S, A36; Lester J; Lucas O, A49; Mimi T, A05; Nick H, A27; Norman L, A57, Patrick M (H&I, CA); Roland R, A 67; Sam S, A47; Scotty B, A49; Selena, A51; Stacy C,A27; Steve N, A75; Sylvia B; Thornton S, A57; Tressa W, A45; Zachary G, A27.

**Stacy opened with the Serenity Prayer.**

Stacy asked for those new to the meeting to introduce themselves: Nick H, A27

***Richard J was the speaker***

***Lucas O was the Concept presenter.***

Questions and comments for the speaker and presenter followed.

***Selena introduced the topic:*** How can experience in prisons translate to helping the more fluid population in jails?

**Stacy** shared that we have to develop programs specific to each facility/meeting.

**Joe W** said the Corrections Workbook says inmates are interested in knowing how we got sober and stay sober.

**Bryan** said the main difference is that people in jail are short term. Most of them are unfamiliar with AA and are newcomers to sobriety. In prisons, they have established leadership (GSR, Secretary, etc.). Jail meetings are less structured. In prisons, AA volunteers serve more in the “background”. In jails, the volunteers have more of an active role. The short jail sentence is disruptive to the meeting structure.

**Joe S** sees that one difference as there is a wider variety of people incarcerated in jails--from DUI to awaiting sentencing for murder. In jails, an important part of meeting should be to relay information about how to find meetings and a sponsor when released; how to stay sober when out so they aren't right back in.

**Zach** shared that one thing he notices is jails are more immediate and inmates are going back into that general location. He tries to let them know where their home groups are and where they can find them when they get out. They give out the AA NO website address and stress the importance of having a home group as soon as possible. Also, having people armed with facts coming in and talking about AA.

**Thornton** tries to remember his experience going to jail/prison. He wondered if he was an alcoholic or drug addict. If he looks at it more as a Twelve Step call, he tries to talk about what is alcoholism and what it is that makes him an alcoholic. A lot of people who identify as addicts have the allergy to alcohol and visa vera. Whether serving a prison sentence or waiting to be released, it's important for volunteers to help inmates see the truth about their alcoholism. He tries to give meeting list or contact information where they are being released. It is important to help them see the truth about alcoholism and where to get the help they need.

**Scotty** shared it was frustrating taking meetings into Rikers because meetings were at different times and there are different facilities within Rikers--sometimes where the gang members are or in the detox until. Even in short term, there were a lot of guys who were there for the long term. He knew a guy who was there for four years. Scotty would take two speakers in with him. It was hard getting clearance for three people. He asked speakers to focus on the basics of experience, strength and hope and the Steps whenever they could—to keep it basic. He'd let them know to look AA up within 24 hours of release if they didn't want to go back to old way of living. Scotty never forgot time in prison in TX where the inmates were chairing the meeting themselves.

**Stacy** said there is a statistic about how many go to a meeting within 24 hours of release. It is shocking. (Not many).

**Brad** said he didn't want to go into facilities but had a sponsor who said he'd pick him up to go. Brad drew the line for prisons but went in and that has given a perspective on his drinking. He was able to see how close he was to being in prison. At county jails in NY, he has experienced that there are a lot more people sitting there waiting to get out. It was frustrating because they had 16 people in the jail meeting--short termers. There was a lot of chatter. When he goes into a prison, the guys appreciate AAs showing up. Now he can't wait to go back into prison.

**Cliff** shared: May 29, Zoom Corrections Roundup. Poster has been sent out.

We have provincial and federal facilities. Provincial is 2 years less a day and federal is 2 or more years. Provincial stays on average are a little over 60 days. It's hard to do any AA service because they are short term. Federal is easier because they have some time to be there. One of guys in the meeting asked what they are going to do when they get out. Another guy responded you know as soon as you're past the gate you're going to get drunk. Long timers are easier because they are calmer. Cliff taken long terms through the steps twice.

**Isaac** had the opportunity to go virtually into Angola. Got involved before pandemic so he doesn't know much about jails in N NJ. Would like more information.  
Lucas will provide Isaac with more information.

***Stacy closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.***

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS CALL MEETING</b>	<b>February 7, 2021 5:00 PM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Adam D; Amy G, A47; Carl B, A48; Cheri S, A02; Cliff T, A79; Christopher C; Dave A, A81; Dave L, A44; Dennett R, A27; Don S, A27; Fred S, A03; Jay E, A79; Jennifer M; John L, A27; Johnnie C, A49; Joseph S, A36; Joseph W, A11; Ken P, A16; Kris F, A30; Laura S, A36; Michael D, A79; Mike S, A45; Patrick M, A27; Richard J, A36; Sam S, A47; Susan S; Stephen T, A64; Zach G, A27

***Scotty chaired the meeting and Kris was the Spiritual Time Keeper.***

***Scotty opened with the Serenity Prayer.***

***Scotty asked those at meeting for first time to introduce themselves:*** Johnny C, Brooklyn NY; Patrick, LA Corrections H&I; Amy, NY; Adam D.

***The speaker Adam D, A 49***

***The Concept Two presenter was Laura.***

Questions and Comments for speaker and Concept presenter followed.

**TOPIC:** Corrections 101: Helpful Information for New Corrections Chairs, by **Carl A48**

Carl shared slides containing maps of NY corrections facilities.

He took on corrections chair commitment two years ago.

In his state/area, there are 23 prisons and 21 county jails with a population of 20,000. No AA meeting are taking place inside at this time.

In preparation for commitment, Carl spent time looking at maps. Area 38 is organized by "clusters".

They are holding corrections workshop(s) in attempt to organize volunteers and recruit new volunteers.

As Covid shut down volunteer activities, Carl contacted regional coordinators for volunteer services and supervisors for volunteer services to discuss ways to carry the message. To that end, he has put together a program to donate literature to prison libraries and GV to county jails.

Carl will be organizing corrections workshops in A48 in next few months, with goal of recruiting new talent and getting past volunteers organized/reenergize/back on board.

**Scotty** shared what he took from of Carl's presentation--get to know the facilities in your area.

**Joe W** asked if there are Spanish speaking meetings in Carl's area. Carl is not aware of any, although there is Spanish language literature in the libraries.

Joe asked if the DOC breaks down inmate population by national origin or race. Carl does not know.

**Ed** asked if A48 has BTG/prerelease. Carl responded that most districts have BTG chairs. Ed asked if BTG deals with corrections. Carl said he can't speak to that as he is not involved with that program.

**Scotty** shared that in A50, BTG is one program: treatment and corrections.

**Amy** asked for experience with online meetings, access to tablets and meetings by conference call. Scotty shared information about the monthly conference call meeting with six inside members and six outside members at Angola. The meetings have recently stopped due to Covid outbreak.

**John L** works with Amy. He is updating committee information because A 47 is starting from scratch. They don't have as many facilities as they once did; still have county facilities. He is trying to establish who are the staff advisors at the facilities because they are the people who know who is in the groups; who inside AA members are. They have sent in literature and the AA newsletter, "Sharing from Behind the Walls".

**Patrick** shared their facilities have been closed down since the pandemic started. He took over in January. There are many jails in LA, and he has been getting literature in through religious

volunteer services. They are beginning a pilot program of showing a 15-minute DVD in facilities, starting with a women's jail. It features speakers and panels.

**Dave A**, in answer to Amy's questions, shared they've been doing something similar to the conference call at Angola's. ME has been doing a Zoom meeting, they have tablets, with other things being worked out. The face of AA and corrections is changing, providing a great way to have a new start. Corrections has established acceptable practices with some technologies that facilities will listen to that they weren't interested in before.

Dave responded to Adam's comment about getting too comfortable. There is an element of crime that can be deceptive. He always says, "I'll try". Never promise anything. If something goes off the rails, you will be held personally accountable. They hang onto words. You're the only connection inside has outside the walls. They put a lot of stock in what we say. The word "try" is crucial.

Scotty shared that online meetings are easier to start in treatment centers than corrections facilities.

**Cliff** mentioned Dave's GV article.

About technology: They put together a social programs list and also a volunteer list.

Before Covid, they asked a facility if they could do a CPC presentation and they did one recently using Webex. They have been contacted by two other facilities to put on presentations with staff.

In Canada they can have social events in the facilities, so they are getting them on their calendar.

In one provincial system, they use Google Stream.

In BC, they have a wellness and therapeutic community that has been active during Covid.

**Zach** asked if anyone has been able to have facilities use PDFs of AA literature. Reached out to Ivan (past Class AA judge) and Veronica (current US District Court PO Chief) and met with two federal facilities. They are more than happy to receive CDs.

They were looking at using Zoom but to date restrictions on gathering inside has prevented it.

**Scotty** said he has talked to a corrections professional about getting literature into Rikers. She took PDFs from aa.org and put them on learning tablets. Scotty said that ME is involved in a project to have literature on their tablets.

**Joe W** said tablets are going to be benefit over literature we hand out. He is not sure how to get literature into the hands of inmates/ensuring it gets to inmates. We have to trust administrators.

**Ed** said hyperlinks are good for CPC work and he gives them to professionals.

**Christopher** reiterated what he learned from Mark D in Camden ME about having success with Zoom. Mark wrote an email for the AAs in LA, that included technical details.

**Joe W** asked if one has to be an AA to attend this meeting?

**Scotty** responded we will find out next week.

**Dave** said we've have had Class As attend this meeting.

***Scotty closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.***

<b>NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>January 31, 2021 5:00 PM CST</b>
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**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Bahiyyah W, Area 67; Betsy G, Area 36; Bob W, Area 18; Brad, Area 47; Bryan B, Area 92; Charles K, Area 79; Christopher C, Argentina; Clifford T, Area 79; Dave A, Area 81; Dave L, Area 11; Dennett R, Area 27; Ed M, NY; Fred S, Area 03; Jay E, Area 79; Joe S; Area 36; Joe W, Area 11; John L, Area 47; Ken P, Area 16; Kris F, Area 30; Lana G; Laura S, Area 36; Michael A; Mike D, Area 79; Mimi T, Area 05; Myrna P, Area 79; Pauline D, Area 79; Richard J, Area 36; Roland R, Area 67; Roland; Ron L, Area 80; Sam S, Area 47; Sandy L; Sarah P, Area 50; Scotty B, Area 47; Selena, Area 51, Stacy C, Area 27.

***Stacy chaired the meeting and opened with the Serenity Prayer.***

***Stacy read from the Corrections Workbook: "Corrections work is an opportunity to carry the message to the confined alcoholic who wants to live sober one day at a time."***

Stacy welcome those attending for their first time:

Michael A, Perry St

Betty G, Area 36

Lana, Area 27

Mimi, Area 05

Myrna, Area 79

Stacy explained the purpose of the meeting: To share best practices and learn what others are doing in corrections. All are welcome.

***The speaker was Steve.***

Questions and Comments for the speaker followed.

***TOPIC: Shared experience on how corrections service has affected trusted servant's lives.***

Several participants shared their stories and experience in corrections.

Next meeting: February 7 at 5:00 PM CST.

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

**January 24, 2021  
10:00 AM CST**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**Secretary: Laura S, Area 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

NAME		
Barbara Barnes, Area 51 NC D33 Corrections Chair		
Bob Linsey, Area 38 EAMO		
Bryan Barnhart, Area 92 Yakima WA		
Bryan Burkholder, Area 55 Ohio		
Callie Howe, Area 57 D80 Corrections Chair		
Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon D45 Corrections Chair		
Charles Keenan, GSR Area 79 BC/Yukon		
Cheri Shrader, Delegate, Area 02 GSC Corrections Committee		
Christopher Carpenter Corrections Chair, Perry St		
Courtney Eltringam, Area 49 Orange Co NY, Corrections and Institutions Chair		
Darlene Cornelius, Area 44 D Corrections Corrections Chair		
Dave Allen, Area 81 New Brunswick/PEI		
David Lorenzini, Area 44 N NJ Corrections Chair		

Toms River, NJ		
Dennett Rodrigue, Area 27 LA Lafayette LA		
Don Smith, Area 27 Homer LA		
Eddie Mullholand		
Fred Seebold, Area 03 AZ		
Iven Ose, Area 36 S MN		
John Lattimer, Area 47 SENY Corrections Chair		
Joseph Schmitt, Area 36 S MN District Corrections Chair		
Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 Bridgeport CT		
Ken Payton, Area 16 GA Corrections Chair Dublin GA		
Kris Fox, Area 30 E MA Boston North Shore MA		
Laura Skaalrud, Area 36 S MN CTCP Minneapolis MN		
Lori Johnson Adams, Area 27 LA Lake Charles LA		
Lucas Ortega Area 49 NYC Corrections Chair Brooklyn NY		
Michael Dillon (Aloha Michael), Area 79, BC/Yukon		
Norman Loffer, Area 57 OK Mustang OK		
Richard Johnson, Area 36 S MN Area Corrections Chair		
Rito Valdez, Area 67 Houston TX		
Robert Langdon, Area 15 D14, S FL, Bahamas, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St Maarten & Cayman Islands.		
Roland Ruffin, Area 67 SETA Corrections Chair, 2021		
Ron Leslie, Alt GSR, Liaison Corrections East, Area 80		



Roy England, Area 67, SETA Houston TX		
Ruth Lano, Area 87 SW Quebec Delegate, Panel 70		
Sam Smith, Area 47 Area Treatment Co-Chair		
Scotty Baker, Area 49 SE NY Corrections Chair NYC NY		
Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA Corrections Chair Shreveport LA		
Steve Nylander, Area 75 S WI, D17 Corrections Chair		

***Scotty chaired the meeting and opened with the Serenity Prayer.***

***Scotty read from the Corrections Workbook: "Corrections work is an opportunity to carry the message to the confined alcoholic who wants to live sober one day at a time."***

Scotty asked those attending their first time to introduce themselves.

- Christopher K, Corrections Chair, Perry Street NY
- Ruth L, Area 87 SW Quebec
- Rev Courtney E, Corrections and institutions Chair, Orange Co NY
- Charles K, A79 Yukon/BC District level Corrections Committee

**The speaker was Ruth L.**

**The Concept presenter was Bryan B.**

Questions and Comments for speaker and/or Concept presenter followed.

**Stacy** acknowledged the new participants. She encouraged participants to let others know about the meeting. She introduced a new service position: spiritual timekeeper. If interested, contact her.

Stacy updated information about the National Corrections Conference. The new hotel is Hilton New Orleans Airport. She will send out a new flyer for distribution. She asked everyone to the website and register ([nationalcorrectionsconference.org](http://nationalcorrectionsconference.org)) because she needs 150 people to sign up for the banquet. Conference attendees are arriving as early as Tuesday and Wednesday to visit Angola.

Stacy said that at next Sunday's meeting, Steve M from NC who has worked in the prison system, will be the speaker. Next Sunday,

**TOPIC: What to do when all or majority of attendees in an institutional meeting identify as drug addicts, not alcoholics.**

**Ed M** introduced the topic by saying there was an article in the November or December issue of the Grapevine article recently about a woman taking AA meetings into an institution. Her husband who is in NA told her people in AA are killing addicts by sending them to AA. In Ed's area, Area 49, there was a meeting going into Rikers that would not let anyone share who was not an alcoholic. The DOC was upset about that. They said, you're guests; you obey our obey rules. Whenever there is disagreement between AA and professionals, the inside AA suffers. What do we do in these meetings is the question? How do we explain to professionals why our Traditions are the way they are?

**DISCUSSION**

**Joe** shared that the Blue Card describes open meetings; comments should be confined to alcoholism.

**Dennett** shared he is past Area 27 Corrections Chair and is a graduate of Drug Court. He said we ought to practice love and tolerance; Be friendly with our friends. Talk about what AA is and what it isn't. Drug court sends addicts to us because we are the "mothership". In a loving kind manner, we may be able to explain why we may not be able to help addicts. Dennett said it's hard to find "just" an alcoholic. The only requirement is a desire to stop drinking, but we ask all who participate to confine their discussion to alcohol. If I can get those on the inside into the BB and explain the phenomenon of craving and the mental obsession as it pertains to alcohol, even though they may be drug addicts, a seed may be planted so when they get out, they'll know where to go if AA is not for them. The last thing he wants to do is cause controversy.

**Ruth** shared we are friendly with our friends. They've looked at it through a group conscience in Area 87, with our corrections committees. When we carry the message and are faced with those who have problems other than alcohol, we don't exclude them, but we help them understand we can't be everything to everyone all of the time. But in cooperation and collaboration AA can work with our friends to bring them the literature that might be best to help them. Upon their release they meet them at the door like they would in AA BTG. They take them by the hand to their first CA, NA, GA, etc. meeting that they need so they can commence their journey in a fellowship where they may be able to best identify. She does that in regular in-person AA meetings when she hears someone talking about their drug addiction problem.

**Cliff** shared that on Vancouver Island they have two treatment centers. One has AA speakers once a week. One of the AA members caused a scene about meetings being AA only and they almost got kicked out. They learned the lesson that we are guests in their house. At another treatment center inside AAs needed to get a sponsor. They had to chat with the center what sponsors do (e.g., do not take sponsees shopping). At a jail, they have ten or twelve guys show up. They had to deal with a situation where one guy only wanted to talk about drugs, and he

was taking over the meeting. In their community, NA is barely hanging on, so Cliff worked with the facility to get NA the support they needed to obtain literature.

At a facility they are going to CSC is allowing them to have a CPC presentation via Webex. Cliff sees it as an opportunity to let them know what we do and how we do it.

**John** shared that in his area, the facility doesn't do any recruiting or attendance tracking. A staff advisor who has been assigned to assist with the AA program. She is somewhat aware of AA's Traditions and why we're there. She screens the guys who go to the meeting, so they are appropriate. The facility has everyone coming into facility take a test to determine if they're alcoholic. They tell her to leave room for those that say they never disclose their alcoholic problem but want to go to meetings. If they talk about drug use, they guys will pull them aside during break time. If all else fails an old timer talks about the Traditions. Things work out. They stick with our primary purpose.

Kris brought up the 50th anniversary of Bill's passing. Reminded people that AA is a spiritual malady that we fill with booze. She said Bill talked about having mental issues that lead him to drink. He touched on outside journey that led him to AA. We can mention outside issues as a passing reference but need to keep it to the AA message during our share because for the true newcomer, a watered down message won't reach their ears.

**Rito** shared that he has a "been around" date and a commitment date. He went to meetings because he wanted to get around. We might be the only show in town. He's glad that the group he went to didn't say he couldn't come to the meeting. He thought his problem was that he's was locked up, not that that he was an alcoholic. Now he just carries the message and lets God deliver. He sees his responsibility as pulling people to the side but let them come into the meeting. He was an addict, but he didn't become an alcoholic until he went to AA. He learned about himself because we read the book and he went to Step studies. Rito said our program is a design for living because we don't know how to live drunk or sober. He doesn't want to be rigid. He wants sponsorship not dictatorship. He wants to reference our other fellowships. We need to be there for each other. This issue has been going on for years.

**Laura** read from *Language of the Heart*, "More About Alcoholism".

**Joe** said this is a Tradition Three item. In the Tradition Three pamphlet, Bill W says, many drug addicts have concluded they are alcoholic by attended open meetings. In prison, all meetings are open unless they say they are closed.

**Scotty closed the meeting with the Responsibility Declaration.**

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR  
SECRETARY: LAURA SKAALRUD, AREA 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Bahiyyah Wright, Area 67, SETA Houston TX		
Barbara Barnes, Area 51 NC D33 Corrections Chair		
Bob Cook, Area 14 NE FL		
Bob Linsey, Area 38 EAMO		
Bryan Barnhart, Area 92 Yakima WA		
Callie Howe, Area 57 D80 Corrections Chair		
Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon D45 Corrections Chair		
Cindy Sickler		
Darlene Cornelius, Area 44 D Corrections Corrections Chair		
Dave Allen, Area 81 New Brunswick/PEI		
David Lorenzini, Area 44 N NJ Corrections Chair Toms River, NJ		
Dennett Rodrigue, Area 27 LA Lafayette LA		
Don Smith, Area 27 Homer LA		
Eddie Mullholand		
Fred Seebold, Area 03 AZ		
Greg Keller, Area 51 Registrar Past Area Corrections Chair		
Iven Ose, Area 36 S MN		
Jay E, Area 79 D43 District Corrections Chair		
Jeff Grove, Area 57 OK Oklahoma City OK		
Jenn Buzzi, Area 44 NJ Volunteer/Volunteer Coor		
John Lattimer, Area 47 SENY		

Corrections Chair		
Joseph Schmitt, Area 36 S MN District Corrections Chair		
Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 Bridgeport CT		
Ken Payton, Area 16 GA Corrections Chair Dublin GA		
Laura Skaalrud, Area 36 S MN CTCP Minneapolis MN		
Lucas Ortega Area 49 NYC Corrections Chair Brooklyn NY		
Michael Dillon (Aloha Michael), Area 79, BC/Yukon		
Richard Johnson, Area 36 S MN Area Corrections Chair		
Roland Ruffin, Area 67 SETA Corrections Chair, 2021		
Roy England, Area 67, SETA Houston TX		
Sam Smith, Area 47 Area Treatment Co-Chair		
Scotty Baker, Area 49 SE NY Corrections Chair NYC NY		
Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA Corrections Chair Shreveport LA		
Zachary George, Area 27 New Orleans LA District 21/23 Treatment and Corrections Chair		

Participants without contact information: Grace B., Keith S., Mark D.

***Scotty chaired the meeting and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.***

Scotty asked for those participating for the first time of those wishing to introduce themselves, to do so:

Jay DCC A79 BC/Yukon

Bob C, Jacksonville FL Area 14 Corrections Service Coordinator

Sam S, Area 47  
Cindy Sickler, Area 4 Mena AZ  
Richard Area 36 Corrections Chair

***The speaker was Mark, Area 28.***

***The Concept I presenter was Ed M, Area 49.***

***Questions and Comments for the speaker and presenter followed.***

The speaker, Mark's contact information: [medierckes@gmail.com](mailto:medierckes@gmail.com), 207-691-1344.

**TOPIC: Corrections Inventory, introduced by Joe W.**

Joe feels qualified to share on the topic of corrections inventory because he had one. When he became area corrections chair, he said to the district corrections chairs that it's good to get a service sponsor. One of them went to the area chair and told her that Joe said they had to get a service sponsor. The area chair asked Joe about it. He told her he was new at his position. As a result, they had an Area 11 Corrections Service Inventory. It lasted for two hours. They had alternate delegate sit in and chair it. They got essential feedback. One criticism was that Joe violated anonymity by using last names. He did it because in service one uses last names because many people have the same first name. The other was, he was working with a district corrections chair who was Muslim. At the inventory this district corrections chair accused Joe of discriminating against him because of his color. What Joe did was he recruited him, took to district meetings, helped him with his budget, and got him a service sponsor. He thought this man would bloom into a leader. Joe asked him if they could work in harmony. They resolved their differences at a November CCS workshop where this man was the chair.

Joe's first experience with district inventories was in New Haven. Then in Bridgeport, one of the delegates conducted an inventory. The questions for an inventory are in the AA Group Pamphlet (P26). The third question asks, what is the group doing to attract people of different backgrounds. Joe said W the majority of inmates are black and 50% of inmates can't read. In CT 20 % of the confined population are Spanish speaking; there are no inside Spanish speaking meetings. Joe said the corrections workbook needs to be taught. It needs a list of questions for area corrections committees.

Bryan shared that when he was corrections chair for E WA Area 92. They have a high Spanish speaking population, 50% of whom are "illegals". They are monolingual. That bleeds over into corrections facilities. Bryan discovered, as he went to major prisons in Area 92 and reached out to Spanish linguistic districts (span the whole of 92). The linguistic district had been supporting a jail for ten years, unknown to area. One way that AA can improve the situation is by seeing what is there. They had a Spanish speaking meeting in the jail. There is a lot going on independently that we may not be aware of. If you think there is a population that is not getting served, maybe AA can reach out to them.

Ed shared in Area 49 they have a Spanish speaking linguistic district. Chicago has three Spanish linguist committees and a Polish linguistic district. He's also assisted as a note taker at inventories. Diversity is always a question that comes up. Trustees have brought up that they

are going to change our language to make it more inclusive. It is an issue we're trying to address. He went to a couple Spanish workshops. Someone asked if undocumented people can go into facilities. Guidelines say legal residency must be enforced. There is an issue of trust.

**John L** shared on inventory. They have a prison group. He likes the list out of the group pamphlet. They remind everyone about our identity as a group in AA vs a class. They ask, are all members given an opportunity to speak at meetings and participate? They have a custom that everyone speaks. If it is a speaker meeting, they may not get to everyone. They have five-minute stories, and everyone gets five minutes at the podium. Going up to the podium gives self-confidence. One passes out pamphlets at orientation. On inclusiveness, when it comes to criminal background, you are aware of it. For example, with sex offenders, there was difficulty with some of the guys because they didn't want to be seen in general population as associating with them. One very strong member insisted the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking.

**Zach** There is a group of black indigenous people of color meetings where members feel the need to have a place to be safe and where they can share about AA and what's going on in the world. Zach has a lot of contacts with different folks and would like to them and see how we can get more black indigenous people of color involved in corrections. He would love to talk to anyone who wants to talk about that.

Lucas shared that the idea of having an inventory that concentrates on corrections is important. As a person that stands with his area in service and serving in county and district, it is important for them collectively to get a sense of what our best practices as a unit are and inspire others and get people to participate. He has 13 counties in his area and two representatives showed up with a corrections chair. It was a successful meeting, but he wanted more participation. That comes with all of us having good best practices in place. He may call his sponsor and go line by line through the corrections workbook. Having an inventory would help have will established best practices in writing.

Cliff shared in his area they did an area wide corrections inventory. In Canada they have federal and provincial facilities. For the longest time area would tell people they take care of federal jails and intergroups and local areas take care of provincial jails. Over time that spread across the entire province. They had an inventory to find out what's what. One questions was, how are these inside groups connected to AA. If intergroup, they are not connected because they are not connected to AA. They can't have GSR's because of the length of time they are in (average 63 days) where in federal facilities it is two years. The question was, how are inside groups connected to AA as a whole. They have inside registered groups, but they are not connected. In Canada, they have Escorted Temporary Absences. Who is responsible for what--everyone had an idea. Like all inventories, we identify challenges. In two of Cliff's groups, they did inside AA group inventories. One thing that came out of them was to create a newcomer packet. They gained a lot of information, 47 respondents and a 20+ page report.

**Bob** shared that he is the Area 14 FL Corrections Chair and has been a service coordinator. They have a linguistic district for Spanish speaking groups. They have one corrections district made

up of one city in rural area. Most of the state facilities are in that district. They are considering having a corrections district that encompasses all prisons. The reason is because in that particular district the groups don't have a voice and that would be a good way to have that happen. They have registered prison groups with no one representing them.

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**Jay E, Corrections Chair, Area 79 District 43 Corrections Meetings**

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Corrections Committee Meeting, Monthly, Second Thursday, 7PM. Zoom  
Corrections Corner, Monthly, Last Sunday, 6PM. Zoom

Same Zoom login for both meetings: Zoom 240 916 8319 Password 122820

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2021  
10:00 AM CST

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**SECRETARY: LAURA SKAALRUD, AREA 36**

**No Minutes Available**

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

January 3, 2021  
5:00 PM CST

**MEETING CALLED BY STACY C. AREA 27 CORRECTIONS CHAIR, NATIONAL CORRECTIONS  
ZOOM MEETING CHAIR**

**SECRETARY: LAURA SKAALRUD, AREA 36**

**PARTICIPANTS**

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Bahiyyah Wright, Area 67, SETA Houston TX		



Bill Hoffman, Area 65, NETA Burleson		
Bob Linsey, Area 38 EAMO		
Brad Gates, Area 47 Ithaca NY Institution Representative		
Bryan Barnhart, Area 92 Yakima WA		
Cate Matis, Area 53 Corrections Liason Chair, GIR		
Clifford Thate, Area 79 BC/Yukon D45 Corrections Chair		
Cheri Shrader, Delegate, Area 02 GSC Corrections Committee		
Chris Johnson, Area 53		
Darlene Cornelius, Area 44 D Corrections Corrections Chair		
Dave Allen, Area 81 New Brunswick/PEI		
David Lorenzini, Area 44 N NJ Corrections Chair Toms River, NJ		
Dennett Rodrigue, Area 27 LA Lafayette LA		
Donna Melancon, Area 27		
Eddie Mullholand		
Jenn Buzzi, NJ		
John Lattimer, Area 47 SENY Corrections Chair		
Joseph Schmitt, Area 36 S MN		
Joseph Wisneki, Area 11 Corrections Chair Bridgeport CT		
Julie Graham, Area 75 S WI Corrections Chair		
Ken Payton, Area 16 GA Corrections Chair Dublin GA		
Laura Skaalrud, Area 36 S MN CTCP Minneapolis MN		
Lori Johnson Adams, Area 27 LA		

Lake Charles LA		
Marie Wagner, N AZ		
Michael Dillon (Aloha Michael), Area 79, BC/Yukon		
Nanette L., Area 14 NE FL Corrections Coordinator		
Norman Loffer, Area 57 OK Mustang OK		
Paul Chalker		
Pauline Deane, Area 79 BC/Yukon Corrections Chair		
Richard Johnson, Area 36 S MN Incoming Corrections Chair		
Rito Valdez, Area 67 Houston TX		
Roland Ruffin, Area 67 SETA Corrections Chair, 2021		
Ron Leslie, Alt GSR, Liaison Corrections East, Area 80		
Scotty Baker, Area 49 SE NY Corrections Chair NYC NY		
Stacy Cook, Area 27 LA Corrections Chair Shreveport LA		
Steve Nylander, Area 75 S WI, D17 Corrections Chair		
Susan Clolinger, Area 44 N NJ, Corrections Chair		
Tony Arteaga, Area 03 AZ		
Tim Currie, D 5 Area 58 E OR Bend OR		
Tressa White, Area 45 S NJ New Jersey		
Thornton Shackelford, Area 57 OK, Corrections Chair Cushing OK		
Wayne Bramlett, Area 51, NC		

Participants without contact information: Hugo, Chrissy, Donagh, Jay E, Sam S

***Stacy opened meeting with the Serenity Prayer.***

***The speaker was Hugo.***

Participants new to the meeting introduced themselves: Karen C, SE OH; Dennis, Arkansas; Bob, Area 18; Kris Courtney, New York; Pauline, BC/Yukon; Shannon; Hugo, NY; Karen C, NorCal H&I.

***Stacy introduced Karen C, NorCal H&I***

**Karen** shared they have something exciting in Northern California. They combine H&I service with sponsorship. Karen is a member and past chair of NorCal H&I. It has a long history of carrying the message to alcoholics who are confined. It started in 1945 because two Bay Area groups got into a fist fight about who was going to bring the message into San Quentin that night. They decided they should organize.

At the NCC 2017, Karen presented a plan to bring electronic meetings to prisons in remote locations where historically there have been problems getting volunteers. ME has started having remote meetings and some San Quentin volunteers are participating in those meetings.

At the NCC 2019, NorCal H&I presented a plan to bring one-on-one sponsorship in person on a large scale to inmates in California DOC prisons, and as a result they were featured in the cover article of the 2020 June Prison issue of GV. What is critical about the sponsorship program is avoiding the pitfalls of existing methods of bringing in sponsorship. They use vetted, oriented committee volunteers and do it without breaking the rules of the prisons and endangering their entire corrections effort. They serve by bringing in AA meetings and literature but hadn't found a method of bringing in that third vital element of recovery—sponsorship—while being in compliance with facility regulations.

Efforts by cleared volunteers that take in meetings causes the conflict of overfamiliarity. They are classified as unpaid staff. Their program ensures there is designed to avoid overfamiliarity between prisoners and staff. The reason avoiding overfamiliarity is important is that it avoids problems with contraband and compromising personal relationships. Overfamiliarity is the definition of sponsorship, however. What constitutes overfamiliarity is anything one might hear in Fifth or Tenth Step and that should not be shared with someone who is classified as a cleared volunteer. Meeting volunteers have to sign PREA agreements making them legally obligated to disclose certain types of information that effect thoroughness and honesty of our volunteers and sponsees. Regulations also prohibits meeting volunteers from entering facility as official visitors. Having cleared meeting volunteers sponsor inmates puts volunteers in breach of facility rules and puts committee's efforts and standing at the facility in jeopardy.

There are other ways to sponsor:

1. CCS. In many ways, they are an adjunct to that program, but incoming and outgoing mail is subject to monitoring and effects full disclosure and missing face-to-face intimacy of sponsorship.
2. Prisoner to prisoner sponsorship. There is a reluctant to share one's business on the inside.

3. Individual local groups have tried to do it but logistics are too complicated to achieve a long term sustainable consistency on a large scale.

NorCal H&I's solution was to create a service that is separate from their meeting efforts. They use a separate set of volunteers. It is a separate arm of their activity. Sponsors are classified as visitors. They meet one-on-one with specific individuals on the inside. There is a one-page clearance, no PREA agreement, they don't follow staff rules, and there is no TB test requirement. They can organize on a large scale and protect their volunteers' anonymity. They developed consistent guidelines of conduct and require adherence to prison regulations. The guidelines are about how to function within the system, not guidelines on how to sponsor. They don't organize sponsorship.

In 2019 they began a test and San Quentin. They had extensive meetings with administration and gained their support. They source volunteers from the four surrounding counties and provided them with orientation to guidelines. They designed inmate brochures on glossy paper and customized application paperwork with the approval of the administration. The application paperwork protects the anonymity of their volunteers. The program is only open to members of AA. Inside AAs can only get brochures at AA meetings. Inserted into brochure is a customized application for the visitor which protects their anonymity—that is their line in the sand: protection of a volunteer's anonymity. They set up a PO Box. They now have 70 inmates with outside sponsors. Progress came to a halt with Covid0-19. Their goal is to sponsor between 50-100 prisoners on an ongoing basis. Karen said the potential is enormous.

Today, in person visits have been terminated since March 13, but volunteers have been able to continue direct written contact with their sponsees. This is vital because meetings were canceled, and they can't meet themselves because of limitation on group gatherings. In some cases, their sponsor is the only AA contact they've had. The latest development is that they have a new head of the CA DOC and one of her first projects is to test virtual visitation at a few prisons in CA during lock down, including San Quentin. This will be available to already cleared visitors.

Inmates are only allowed one half hour visit a month, so sponsors are writing to sponsees to ask what their priorities are in terms of visitation. At this point, they have two e-visits scheduled. This could be the melding of both ideas. Having remote visits and doing one-on-one in person sponsorship.

Karen end by quoting Warden Clinton Duffy (from his autobiography). "If it saves even one life, it might be worth trying."

**Link to information on sponsorship section on NorCal H&I's website:**

<https://www.handinorcal.org/volunteer-prisons>. Contact Karen with questions at [handi.ivss@gmail.com](mailto:handi.ivss@gmail.com).

Questions for Karen:

**Joe** asked if conversations are recorded.

**Karen** responded, conversations during visits are not recorded or monitored.

**Shannon** shared that federal prisons use Corrlinks for email communication.

**Karin** said that there several providers of email applications. They use those, but are focused on one-on-one, face-to-face meetings.

**Bahiyyah** asked if their brochure is accessible online.

Karen asked to receive email requests if anyone wants the brochure.

**Ed** asked if the sponsors are anonymous to inmates.

**Karen** replied that they are.

**Ed** asked if visitors have evisit, and if so, on what platform.

Karen replied that normally there are no evisits. However, because of the pandemic, they are. They have to be cleared as a visitor to access virtual visits.

**Ed** added that overfamiliarity leads to manipulation.

**Hugo** shared he just started doing CCS and got a letter from an inmate who is getting out. He wanted Hugo's phone number and wants Hugo to call his mother.

**Karen** said their anonymity is strictly for when they are inside. Once out, it's between the sponsor and the sponsee.

**Dennett** commented about overfamiliarity, saying one marks the inmate with any specific information and puts him in danger.

**Rito** shared that he did a lot of Fifth Steps in prisons, but Karen has opened my mind.

**Scotty** asked how often visitors are able to get together with their sponsees.

**Karen** answered, it is up to volunteer. Their guidelines suggest a minimum of once/month.

**Chris J** shared that usually they don't get further than the Third Step. Then biggest obstacle is lack of time. He has been trying to sponsor by mail. use He said Karen used the word, "depth", adding we need to give people the hole piece of AA.

**Karen** responded, we can't sponsor before or after a meeting and that she wouldn't be sober today if she hadn't had a sponsor.

**Joe S** asked if brochures are only presented to inmates in the AA meeting and how does one qualify as an AA member?

**Karen** answered, only AA volunteers bring them in and they are only given to those who attend AA meetings. They don't accept requests on duplicates of the brochures—they must be on the original glossy brochure.

**Joe S** asked if caseworkers receive the brochures.

**Karen** answered that only volunteers have them to give to those in AA meetings.

**Stacy** asked if they have had people who feel they haven't been matched up with the best sponsor for them.

Karen said, no.

**Stacy** asked if they've had had sponsors who've said their sponsee is not interested in working the steps.

**Karen** responded it is just like on the outside; it has happened a couple of times.

**Pauline** asked if volunteers are allowed to sponsor more than one person at a time and Is their process to change sponsees.

Karen answered that one can have as many sponsees as they want. If any inside sponsee wants to change they contact us through our PO Box and ask to be assigned to different sponsor.

**Bahiyyah** asked if sponsor that felt their sponsee did not want to work the steps, are they given the opportunity to work with someone else.

Karen answered they have the sponsor write to their sponsee and explain the situation, and if they want new sponsor they should write to (the sponsorship program) at their PO Box.

**Cheri** had a question about matching people with regard to gender and if there a way to note preference in the request.

**Karen** replied that for now, they only have male sponsors going into San Quentin. When they open up for a female facility, they will only have female sponsors. They felt they had to keep it as simple as possible. Karen added that she is not saying it will always be that way.

***Stacy closed with Responsibility Declaration.***