

## Accountability

The Northern California (NorCal) H&I Committee is a Ninth Tradition service committee, directly responsible to those we serve: i.e. the AA groups of Area 53, which covers all of Alameda County, including the El Cerrito Fellowship. To that end, we encourage your group to send a voting H&I group representative to the Area Business Meeting. As with other service committees, the function of this representative is to bring the voice of the individual group to the NorCal Area 53 H&I Committee and take vital information about H&I back to their group.

## Funding

All funding for the NorCal H&I Committee comes from local group's contributions to their Pink Cans. More than 90% of all money contributed to the Pink Cans pays for purchasing and distributing the literature that goes to residents of the facilities we serve.

Funds collected in the Pink Cans are "dedicated funds" and not used for any other group purpose. If any local group needs a Pink Can they can be picked up at the H&I Area 53 business meeting, or you can contact your Area Chair to make other arrangements.

## Contact Local H&I Online

To contact Alameda County, Area 53 H&I Committee, please feel free to send us and email at: [HandINorCal@gmail.com](mailto:HandINorCal@gmail.com)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about serving locally within Alameda County. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

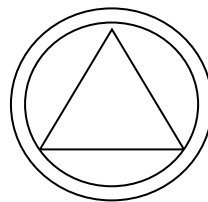
## Resources

The NorCal H&I website at [www.HandINorCal.org](http://www.HandINorCal.org) is a wealth of information about our committee, as well as the best way to contact your Area Chair. Among other things you can:

- Make an online contribution for your group (or as an individual).
- Download our [Policy Manual](#) for complete position descriptions and other important information about how we function.
- Contact any member of the NorCal Committee.
- See important financial information and download our monthly Financial Report.
- Learn more about our history as the oldest correctional committee of AA.

Make online contributions at [www.HandINorCal.org/contribute](http://www.HandINorCal.org/contribute)

Or Mail Contributions to:  
Hospital & Institution Committee  
P.O. Box 192490 San Francisco, CA 94119-2490  
(Please make checks payable to 'NorCal H&I'  
**and note your Area or County in the memo section of the check)**)



### Alameda County, Area 53 H&I Business Meetings

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month**  
7:00pm at The Oakland Peace Center  
111 Fairmount Street, off 29th

# Hospitals & Institutions

## NorCal Area 53

### Alameda County

#### Carrying the AA Message to the Alcoholic Who is Confined

"Practical experience shows that nothing so much ensures immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics."  
*Alcoholics Anonymous, p.89*

From Bill & Bob's first visits to suffering alcoholics in hospitals, to the first successful institutional meeting at San Quentin Prison in 1942, and to the present day, AA has ceaselessly carried the message of hope and recovery to the alcoholic who is confined.

Whether in a psych unit, transitional living, rehab, or the County Jail, NorCal Area H&I Committee conducts meetings in Alameda County facilities that have requested our services.

There are never enough volunteers to respond adequately to the many requests we receive, and so many opportunities to carry the life-saving message of AA go unfilled. We urge you to join in our efforts to perform this vital work by volunteering.

## Alameda County, Area 53 H&I

Currently we serve both male and female inmates at the Santa Rita Jails; the women's FCI Camp and Medium-Security facilities in Dublin; the men's DVI Ranch and Mainline in Tracy; as well as a San Quentin's "H Unit."

## Correctional Facilities

The basic requirements to volunteer and bring meetings into jails varies by institution, but ALL include:

- Minimum 1-year sobriety
- Formal clearance/background check
- Prior H&I Experience

San Quentin requires

- Minimum 5-years sobriety
- Felony convictions must be older than 10-years
- Misdemeanor convictions must be older than 5-years

## Alameda County: Other Facilities

We also bring AA meetings to a number of treatment centers and other facilities throughout the county. The list currently includes *MPI*, *Salvation Army (ARC)*, *Cherry Hill Detox*, *Medical Hill Rehab Center*, *Men of Valor*.

## Other Facility Requirements

Volunteer requirements for facilities are specific to each location. However, the general rule of thumb is a minimum of 6-months sobriety to serve in one of these facilities.

## Fellowship Participation

Additionally, we encourage local groups and fellowships to send representatives to the monthly Area 53 meeting. Allowing for ongoing communication of ideas with and between local AA members and the NorCal Area 53 H&I Committee.

## The Pink Cans

Alameda County Area 53 Hospital & Institution Committee is an organized committee of Alcoholics Anonymous with the purpose of carrying the message of AA to those who are confined. Area 53 H&I alone provides over 1,500 meetings a year to jails, hospitals, rehabs, and other facilities.



The NorCal H&I Committee for many years has been one of the largest purchasers of literature from AA World Service, Inc. in New York, thus contributing significantly to World Service income: all from your contributions to the Pink Can.

We caution that our Pink Can should never subtract from the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition support of your meeting. This should not happen if the group secretaries announce (before the baskets are passed) both the importance of supporting your group (thereby supporting the service entities it contributes to) and the purpose of the Pink Can.

***For this reason, the H&I Committee requests that the Pink Cans be passed separately from, and after the Seventh Tradition baskets and encourages all members to remove the cans from the baskets if they are being passed together.***

## Volunteers Should Be Aware of:

- ✓ Willingness to attend an H&I Orientation to become acquainted with policies and procedures.
- ✓ Do not take a commitment at your place of employment.
- ✓ Do not take a commitment at a facility where you were a resident, inmate, or client until passage of at least 1 year.
- ✓ Do not use profanity or off-color language or jokes.
- ✓ Dress appropriately, some facilities have specific dress codes.
- ✓ Maintain anonymity of inside and outside members. Do not use last names at any facility.
- ✓ Introduce yourself only as an 'alcoholic' to avoid confusion with other 12-step Fellowships which may go into the facility.
- ✓ Keep sharing time short, focusing on the solution and not the problem.
- ✓ If you cannot make your commitment, find a replacement from the roster and notify your Facility Coordinator in advance.
- ✓ Notify your Coordinator at once if there are any problems in your facility.
- ✓ We do not offer to sponsor people in these facilities, nor do we give out our phone numbers, emails, or other contact information. We are there solely to carry the message of AA.