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## Corrections Activity Update

October 2022

To: Corrections Committee Chairs, Regional Trustees, Area Delegates

From: Eileen A., Corrections Coordinator  
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Warm greetings from your General Service Office. My name is Eileen and I'm an alcoholic who recovered in Alcoholics Anonymous in Wilton, CT and recently joined the General Service Office in February. I have the privilege of serving as GSO Staff Coordinator on the Corrections assignment.

If you are a new Corrections chair – welcome aboard! As many of you know, your Area Registrar can update information in our Fellowship Connection database for new committee chairpersons, while some new committee chairs contact us directly to provide their contact information. Please continue to reach out when changes are made so we can continue to have the most up to date information to send you current information from the office.

I am pleased to share the following highlights that I hope you find useful as you carry the message to those inside the walls.

**5<sup>th</sup> National Corrections Conference** to be held November 11-13 in Schaumburg, IL.  
To register for in-person or virtual attendance, please go to the following link:  
<https://nationalcorrectionsconference.org/>

### **Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.)**

The new and improved Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.) database continues to confirm its usefulness. In early July, we completed the C.C.S. data clean-up.

For the period of January 1-August 31, 2022 the CCS app has created 1,997 matches. This service is provided to connect the alcoholic behind the walls with an outside member to share experience, guide them through the steps, and provide the loving “hand of A.A.” We had a total of 1,085 new participants register.

The corrections desk receives inquiries from people in custody who are in the LGBTQ+ community and are requesting to correspond with other alcoholics of similar experience for identification and safety purposes. The trustees’ in keeping with current gender terminologies updated the sign-up forms for inclusivity and clarity for matching and decided to change the form from:

I am a \_\_\_\_\_Male \_\_\_\_\_Female

to

Gender identity\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. Male, Female, Non-binary)

This revision has been sent to publishing and will be available soon.

### **Corrections Correspondence Service for Canada**

**A Canadian corrections working group** has been created to continue collaboration with, the correctional professionals at Corrections Service of Canada (CSC) who are eager to work with A.A. to raise awareness as to what A.A. has to offer for the alcoholic reaching out for help, such as the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS). We are also discussing how to make A.A.W.S and AA Grapevine literature available on tablets for those members in custody in the Canadian facilities.

### **CCS: Call to Action**

Because of your willingness to be of service in this very special way, we are meeting the needs of our members in custody. We have no waitlist for women in custody and at present we have a waitlist of 47 men, 29 are Spanish speaking and 1 is French, and this number will decrease as auto matches are made bi-monthly. In Canada all inside members are matched. We have 17 inside LGBTQ+ members matched.

**We need Spanish speaking men on the outside, women participants on the inside in the US and all inside and outside participants in Canada.**

**We also need participants who identify as Transgender and Non-binary.**

**How you can help, please share the CCS sign up forms at your home group, at the various correctional settings you visit and any other AA event you attend. Sign-up forms and pre-stamped envelopes are available at the GSO free of charge.**

## **Prerelease Contact Information**

The A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Service connects the A.A. member being released from prison with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community.

<https://www.aa.org/aa-corrections-prerelease-contact-information-outside> This leaflet explains the procedures for A.A. members "on the outside."

<https://www.aa.org/aa-corrections-prerelease-contact-information-inside> This leaflet explains the procedures for A.A. members "on the inside" and about to be released.

## **Providing Literature Behind the Walls**

Conference-approved A.A.W.S. and AA Grapevine copyrighted eBooks and audiobooks are available on tablets and desktops in corrections venues, prisons and jails, and can now be accessed by people who are incarcerated and by the professionals who serve them. Through August there has been a continued steady increase in usage with the following highlights:

- **159** facilities throughout the US have accessed A.A.W.S. digital literature. An increase of **25%** (32 facilities) since July 2022.
- **42** new areas in August 2022, 2 new areas accessed literature! The areas are Area 20: Northern Illinois and Area 22 Northern Indiana.
- **4560** new starts in August 2022, a **25%** increase (+ 919 starts) since July 2022.
- **1758** new completes in August 2022, a **21%** increase (+ 313 completes) since July 2022.
- Over 10 new facilities in North Carolina, United States.

Literature is provided at no charge to the people behind the walls. The venues pay for the tablet and the service – because AA literature is in education section. Literature is provided in English, Spanish and French.

**What can you do?** Local trusted servants, who work in correctional settings, can ask their contacts in prisons, jails, and other venues which vendor they contract with. Areas (states, local, privatized venues) are served by different vendors. Each facility is able to be autonomous and has their own contracts for tablets. We have contracted with all major vendors so our e-book and audiobook content can be accessed by whichever vendor the locale uses. If the correctional facility does not have any contracts, you can suggest using Edovo / GTL, or Securus-Jpay, which include our content. More vendors will be providing literature. We will know more by year end. Updates to come.

## **Corrections Kit Contents & Other Service Material Available Online**

Please visit the “Corrections-Committees” <https://www.aa.org/corrections-committees> section of G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site where you can view, download, and print out the most recent version of the Workbook. Almost all Corrections service material can be found there including a Corrections Kit Content List (to be updated in October) with clickable links to enable you to recreate the Kit for yourself. This is especially useful as deficits in the paper supply chain have the printed Corrections Kit and other literature on backorder.

### **Corrections Workbook (M-451)**

Work continues apace on implementing the suggested updates provided by the 2021 and 2022 Conference Committees on Corrections.

Work has begun on a draft service piece on how to provide “inside” sponsorship to our members in custody to be reviewed for inclusion in the Corrections workbook.

### **Sharing From Behind the Walls Bulletin**

The Fall issue of the bulletin <https://www.aa.org/sharing-from-behind-the-walls> is available on G.S.O.’s A.A. Web site for those who want to make extra copies for people in custody. (Area and district Corrections chairs automatically receive it.) Sharing From Behind the Walls is published four times a year and contains bits of sharing from letters from people in custody that come to this desk. If you need a reminder about how valuable your A.A. service is, please read these selections!

Please take advantage of the previous editions of the bulletin (also available on the aa.org website) – in English, French, and Spanish. They can continue to be effectively used to share with people in custody.

**We need your help:**

**Please provide your shared experience:**

**Please submit your shared experience with the appropriate subject line to [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org)**

- 1) **Virtual meetings in correctional facilities in the US and Canada.** As this is a new growing area, the conference committee and the trustees committee on corrections has asked that I gather shared experience from those A.A. members providing this service for possible use in service material. Please email your shared experience as soon as possible.
- 2) **Overview of your Area Corrections Activity.** To update the Overview of Area 10 section on page 17 in the Corrections Workbook, we are asking for shared

experience from your Area. Please keep shares to 1 page. Please submit your response as soon as possible.

- 3) **In order to update the "Getting the Message Out to Juvenile and Short-Term Detention Centers"** section on page 15 of the Corrections Workbook, please submit your shared experience.
- 4) **Are we doing all we can?** Now that we are coming out of the pandemic, it is a good time to assess where we are regarding serving A.A. members in custody. Please share your thoughts on this question.

Are we (GSO, trustees and trusted servants) doing all we can to reach the alcoholic in all correctional settings? in the US including jails, detention centers, juvenile facilities, and federal and state prisons? In Canada including CSC, municipal and provincial facilities. What could we be doing better?

#### **Corrections articles available for free:**

Below please find links to two articles written by Nancy McCarthy (past Class A trustee) for the corrections professional community.

*Perspectives* is published by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA), an association for corrections professionals involved in pre-trial, diversion, probation and parole.

[https://www.appa-net.org/eWeb/docs/APPA/pubs/Perspectives/Perspectives\\_V45\\_N3/#page=16](https://www.appa-net.org/eWeb/docs/APPA/pubs/Perspectives/Perspectives_V45_N3/#page=16)

*Corrections Today* is published by the American Correctional Association (ACA), the professional organization for those working in jails and prisons. ACA also provides the jail and prison accreditation that most facilities seek.

<https://user-3imepyw.cld.bz/corrections-today-january-february-2022-vol-84-no-1>

Both magazines are available free online to members and the general public. We have also been told by ACA and APPA that we are free to distribute the articles as we wish. There are no propriety issues, no paywall, no cost, no copyright issues. It is asked we note the title of the magazine. As members work with the local corrections entities, including in both confined and community corrections settings, copies of the article could be shared to help educate professionals.

**Thank you all for your service.**