

Corrections Desk Activity Update

September 2023

To: Area and District Corrections Chairs
cc: Regional Trustees, Area Delegates
From: Eileen A., Corrections Coordinator
(212) 870-3085
corrections@aa.org

Warm greetings from the Corrections Desk here at the General Service Office (GSO) US/Canada. It is so nice to be in touch with you all again.

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; although some new committee chairs contact us directly to provide their contact information. In any event, 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.

6th Annual National Corrections Conference is scheduled for Nov 10-12, 2023 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<https://nationalcorrectionsconference.org/>

Andie Moss, Class A Trustee, will be presenting. She has 40-years professional experience in the corrections field.

Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)

The revised sign-up forms are available.

<https://www.aa.org/corrections-correspondent-sign-form>

<https://www.aa.org/corrections-correspondence-service-insider-request-form>

We still need Spanish speaking men from the eastern US to correspond with persons in custody, 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 A.A. event you attend. Sign-up forms and pre-stamped envelopes are available at GSO at no cost due to your 7th tradition contributions.

Corrections in Canada

We had a successful meeting with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) on September 5th, 2023. CSC requested the meeting to re-establish collaboration between the A.A. Corrections trusted servants and the corrections regional professionals after changes caused by the pandemic and to ensure that A.A. is available in all 43 federal facilities. Inspiring testimonies from an A.A. trusted servant and a CSC Manager, Assessment and Interventions were heard. This was the first meeting of its kind. The staff member will continue to provide support as needed.

CSC reported that they are 3-5 years away from having an infrastructure to support the use of digital technology.

CSC also reported that postal laws involving confidentiality have prevented participation in the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) by persons in the federal prisons. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the issues.

Digital Literature Behind the Walls

Conference-approved AAWS and AA Grapevine copyrighted eBooks and audiobooks are available on tablets and desktops in the various correctional settings in the U.S., and can now be accessed by people who are incarcerated and by the professionals who serve them. Thanks to the 7th tradition contributions of members, we have contracts with several vendors so we can provide literature at no cost to persons behind the walls. The Daily Reflections audiobook has been added to the available literature.

The Publishing Department is organizing a tablet demonstration so that staff members can better assist the fellowship and corrections professionals when they are confronted with issues when trying to access the literature.

What can you do? Let corrections professionals know that we have contracts with many major tablet vendors including ViaPath, Edovo/GTL, Securus-Jpay or Ingram CoreSource – OverDrive that provide A.A. and AA Grapevine literature. Literature is available in the “Recovery” section of the tablet.

Please contact corrections@aa.org for additional information.

Corrections Kit Contents & Other Service Material Available Online

Please visit the “Corrections-Committees” <https://www.aa.org/corrections-committees> section of GSO’s A.A. web site where corrections literature and service material is available.

Corrections Kit (M-45I)

The Corrections workbook has been updated and is available for purchase at the online bookstore <https://onlineliterature.aa.org/>.

Sharing From Behind the Walls Newsletter

The Spring issue of the newsletter <https://www.aa.org/sharing-from-behind-the-walls> is available on the aa.org website for those who want to make extra copies for people in custody (Area and District Corrections Chairs automatically receive this) The newsletter is published three times a year and contains excerpts of sharing from letters from persons in custody that are sent to this desk. If you need a reminder about how valuable your A.A. service is, please read these sharings.

Please take advantage of the previous editions available in English, French, and Spanish. They can continue to be effectively used.

Virtual meetings in correctional facilities in the US

The 72nd Conference Committee on Corrections suggested that GSO staff gather shared experience regarding virtual meetings in correctional facilities for addition to the Corrections Workbook.

The committee reviewed the shared experience collected which included experience from six A.A. trusted servants, one professional who facilitates virtual meetings in a correctional facility and 11 stories from members in custody who have been positively impacted by these meetings. The committee requested that staff utilize the submitted shared experience to develop a service piece that would be included in the Corrections Kit. A draft will be presented in October. The committee also suggested we share these stories whenever we discuss virtual meetings in facilities.

International weekly corrections meeting online

The purpose of the meeting is to share experience in *carrying the message* to the inside members. Trusted servants meet to discuss best practices and learn how to implement them in their own Areas. **Everyone is welcome** at this meeting, especially present and past correction chairs, and anyone who is interested in A.A. corrections service.

Meeting ID: 841 1036 5604 (no password needed). The first and last Sunday of the month meet at 6pm (EST) all other Sundays meet at 11am (EST).

Thank you for your service.

Eileen A., GSO Staff Member

###