

6th Annual - National Corrections Conference

NOVEMBER 10 -12, 2023

HOSTED BY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEES IN OKLAHOMA – AREA 57

nationalcorrectionsconference.org

Embassy Suites by Hilton, 3233 Northwest Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Sunday, November 12, 2023

I attended the 2023 National Corrections Conference in Oklahoma City, OK that ran from Friday, Nov 10 through Sunday Nov 12th, 2022.

The conference was a collection of AA General Service Members from the US and Canada that participate or have visibility into the AA Corrections. There was representation from many of the Areas and from as far away as Alaska and two Areas from Canada.

During roll call on Friday night, we had introductions from more than **25 Area Corrections Chairs**. Overall there were 242 registered attendees.

The agenda was very full, running until after 11pm on Friday night.

The three-day event provided the opportunity for the exchange of experiences, methods and programs, as experienced by Committees from various regions and districts. It also offered a forum to discuss some of the challenges – and the resolutions, that have been encountered and developed in the effort to carry the message behind the walls.

The conference had representation from GSO. Eileen A. , who has rotated off the GSO Corrections Desk, was asked (and agreed) to come and present updates on AA Corrections at the GSO level.

The **Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)** has reported that - since January of 2023 we have made 1,911 matches in the U.S. which means 3,822 alcoholics have been connected

- Number of matches this year: 1911
- Men inside unmatched: 248
- Men outside unmatched: 15
- Women inside unmatched: 5
- Women outside unmatched: 242

An **update on Tablets**: Tablet vendors now include Securus JPay, Edovo/GTL, Ingram CoreSource – OverDrive and ViaPath (merged with GTL, the tech arm of Edovo). At present, AAWS and AA Grapevine content is now available for free on over 400,000 tablets nationwide in over (217) 344 facilities. Canada does not currently support tablets, but is moving to put the framework in place within the next few years. In Florida, Securus JPay offers the following content at no charge to inmates –

1. Alcoholics Anonymous/Alcohólicos Anónimos/Les Alcooliques Anonymes
2. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions/Doce Pasos y Doce Tradiciones/Les Douze Étapes et les

Douze Traditions

3. Daily Reflections/Reflexiones Diarias/Réflexions quotidiennes
4. Living Sober/Viviendo Sobrio/Vivre... sans alcool!

5. Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age/Alcohólicos Anónimos llega a su mayoría de edad/Le Mouvement des Alcooliques anonymes devient adulte
6. Came to Believe/Llegamos a Creer/Nous en sommes venus à croire
7. Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers
8. As Bill Sees It/Como lo ve Bill/Réflexions de Bill
9. Experience, Strength & Hope/Expérience, force et Espoir
10. A.A. in Prison: Message of Hope/Les AA en prison : d'un detenu a l'autre
11. Pass It On

The **International Corrections Committee** meets virtually every Sunday.

Corrections committees webpage

<https://www.aa.org/corrections-committees>

International Corrections Meeting ID: 841 1036 5604 (password 223531). The first and last Sunday of the month meet at 6pm (EST) all other Sundays meet at 11am (EST).

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.

Of particular interest at this conference was participation by members on the inside. There was a live streaming feed for portions of the weekend that was delivered to three corrections facilities:

- Allen Oakwood Correctional Institute
- San Quentin State Prison
- John H. Lilly Correctional Center

Even more remarkable – the conference organizers had arranged a Zoom participation (two way communications) with three prisons and, for a short time, brought the members from inside the walls into the ballroom where the conference was taking place.

Finally, much like last year, the Conference had powerful and compelling speakers Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning. Their stories were genuine, authentic and, at times, heartbreaking. These speakers were able to well exemplify the importance of the work Alcoholics Anonymous does in carrying the message behind the walls.

Overall, this was a powerful and invaluable event, permitting the collaboration and confluence of ideas and practice as it relates specifically to AA Corrections. I recommend that our Area Corrections Chair attend these conferences wherever possible.

Yours in Love and Service

Mike A.

Area15 Corrections Chair