



## A Very Brief and Incomplete History of AVAIC

The location of and members of the monthly meeting before 1978 is unknown to me. In 1978 the monthly meeting was in Santa Clarita in a room below the Rafters and later in the NCA (National Council on Alcoholism) meeting room. There were one or two other meeting places all in the same general area. AVAIC serviced Santa Clarita, Antelope Valley and a large portion of the San Fernando Valley H&I panels. About 1980 every other month the meeting was in Santa Clarita or the Palmdale Group on Palmdale Boulevard. This was to be expected since the newly formed San Fernando Valley H&I Group had taken off and was doing quite well. Somewhere around 1984 the monthly meeting moved from Santa Clarita and was monthly in Palmdale. In 1992 Santa Clarita H&I split off. This followed months of discord and disharmony mostly fueled by one individual. Santa Clarita wanted to separate but a few feared they would get only a few undesirable panels. The split was finally amicable with many more panels than they assumed they would get. It started with the "resentment and a coffee pot" but ended the way it should have. The final move of the committee was to the Arid Club about two months before the Palmdale Group moved to Avenue R.

The story of AVAIC can not be told without including Pat K. She was feared and disliked by many but loved and trusted by most. She was truly a diamond in the rough. She was a strong advocate for AA and especially AA service. When I joined AVAIC in 1978 Pat was the driving force behind it. She, or Chuck (her husband), or one of her sponsees, or one of her favorites was always the chair. She nearly always got her way with at most a very quick argument. It usually turned out to be the right thing anyway. It was very hard to say "No", to Pat and so she got a lot of people involved in service and that usually included going on or taking a panel or two.

Pat got peoples' trust very quickly. Not just those in AA but officials at Institutions and administrators over institutions. She and Chuck used to get a van load of prisoners from the Tehachapi Prison Level 1 yard and take them to outside meetings. They went to meetings in Lancaster, Palmdale, Acton Rehab, and the Rafters. When the California H&I Conference was held in Fresno, Pat convinced the warden of Tehachapi to let her and Chuck take one of the lifers (multiple murders) to the conference. The van loads and other one time special requests went on until Pat became too sick to continue.

She was instrumental in getting women admitted to Acton Rehab as residents. She was one of the founders, and an early chair, of the Southern California H&I Conference. Pat convinced the staff at Acton Rehab to allow three residents to be picked up once a month for the AVAIC business meeting. The only concession she made was that Acton had a vote, when something came up, in the business meeting. That pick up continues to this day.

AVAIC was Pat's baby. She didn't start it and even had trouble convincing the members to let her join. But once she earned their trust, she made it a vibrant, busy committee with exceptionally few dark nights. It continues today, now meeting at the AV Alano Group, as a medium sized committee with truly committed members and exceptionally few dark nights.

Vic L