

The North County Area Institutions Committee, (NCAIC), is founded and operated under Traditions Five and Nine of AA to share the AA message of experience, strength and hope with confined alcoholics in the coastal and inland areas of the North County regions of San Diego County.

In 1972, members of the San Diego Area Institutional Committee, living and serving in North County, bought a coffee pot, and established NCAIC, a small and highly focused suburban H&I committee in Oceanside. Recruitment and board meetings were, (as today), held at the Oceanside Alano Club, 4198 mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA.

Thus began what is currently a 42-year history of carrying the AA message. NCAIC now (2014) brings some 26 panels into 19 institutions.

Among the early NCAIC members were Charlie T., (who wrote our Guidelines and Procedures), Mickey J. and many, many more.

Our founding members developed excellent financial and volunteer support from the AA groups of North County and as a result, in 2012, over 2000 Big Books were freely given to the non-profit facilities served. For-profit facilities are not provided free literature, but a supply of AA literature is brought in by the panel members for any Alcoholics present at no charge

Hospital and Institutional work in AA predates the establishment of the General Service Office. NCAIC thus maintains an Autonomous Standing Committee status with AA General Service Eight, choosing to raise its own funds for the stated purpose of carrying the AA message to those confined. Autonomous status allows far more flexibility in responding to the constantly changing needs and populations of the institutions served without tying up Area resources.

Whenever possible, a voting NCAIC Representative is sent to Area Assembly and other Area functions to report on NCAIC finances and achievements. A financial and general monthly report is also made to North County Central Office at the North County Intergroup meetings held in Vista; also at the quarterly Informational meetings held at the Alano Club.

Although the two committees had amicably separated years before, around 2005, an NCAIC board member began informally liaising monthly with SDIAIC to share experience, strength and Hope with our 'Mother' H&I committee in the county. As a result, it even occurred that several cases of Big Books from a pickup bed were loaned when the San Diego shipment was delayed and no books were to be had at their monthly meeting. This renewal of the relationship has led to years of ongoing cooperation and support between the two sister committees.

Since its inception, NCAIC has liaised with the Institutional Intergroup of Southern California. This monthly commitment meets throughout the region, allowing NCAIC to share experience, strength and hope with most of the Institutional committees in Southern California. Also, through the exchange of liaisons from Northern California, the entire state participates as well.

As a subcommittee of the Institutional Intergroup provides the annual Southern California H and I Conference, NCAIC supports this and other critical institutional activities with funds, volunteers and fellowship. With the institutional Intergroup and Conference gaining ever-increasing Hispanic participation, we are thus able to grow in service with our brothers and sisters through translation equipment, panels, forums and fellowship in both languages.

This will grow and change as more archival material becomes available.

He has all power, and His works are not of my making. Occasionally I am deeply humbled to be amongst the many carrying the AA message into an institution where an alcoholic receives the gift of sobriety as did I. For me, that is as good as it gets; and for that I am eternally grateful....

rac_Vista, CA_August, 2014