



**Orange County
Hospitals & Institutions
Committee**



Our Purpose?

“To carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Alcoholic who are confined in a hospital or institution.”

Who Are We?

A group of volunteers from various A.A. groups
Around Orange County and beyond.

How Do I Get Involved?

To become a member of Orange County Hospitals & Institutions Committee, a volunteer must have 1 year of continuous sobriety, attend three consecutive monthly business meetings and attend a new member orientation.

Where and When?

Garden Grove Alano Club
9845 Belfast Drive
Garden Grove, CA
(714) 534-2244

On the 2nd Sunday of each month at

Institutions Committee: 4:00-5:00pm
(Orientation for new members at 3:15pm)

Hospitals Committee: 6:00-7:00pm
(Orientation for new members at 5:15pm)

For additional information call: 714 926-9573 or Central Office

Common Questions about Hospitals and Institutions Committee Work

Who does H & I serve?

Currently Orange County H&I takes over 350 meetings (called "panels") of Alcoholics Anonymous into 44 facilities around Orange County and beyond.

144 of these panels are in jails, prisons and juvenile halls where inmates seeking to stay sober "behind the wall" are given an opportunity to hear sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous share their experience, strength and hope. Many men and women have heard the A.A. message for the first time while incarcerated, having stayed sober and gone to A.A. when released. Often they come to our monthly meeting, when they are released to share their gratitude with us for the work we do.

Over 200 of our panels are in hospitals, residential or detox facilities where people we serve are often in their first few days of sobriety. Our members report great satisfaction in being able to carry the message in much the same way as Dr. Bob and Bill W. did. For many of those to whom we present our experience, strength and hope, our panels are their first contact with Alcoholics Anonymous.

What is a panel?

A panel is a commitment by a member of H&I to bring a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous into a facility on a specific day and time each month. Most of our panels meet weekly. With four or five weeks in a month, there are four or five panel leaders covering a particular panel each month. In some cases we have co-panelist.

Panels can be for men only, women only or co-ed depending on the facility. In the jail system, panels are usually male or female only, while most of the prisons and hospitals are co-ed.

How do I get a panel?

To be eligible to be a panel leader you must be a member of Orange County H&I. That means you must have 1 year of continuous sobriety, attend three consecutive monthly business meetings and attend a new member orientation meeting. Leaders of jail or prison panels must also pass a security background check and may not be on probation or parole. Some special panels may also require a longer length of sobriety or a more thorough investigation of your background. The Orange County jail system also requires that panel leaders and

guest be at least 21 years old. Open panels are announced at the monthly H&I business meeting and are filled by eligible members that day.

Can I go on a panel as a guest?

Guest can be other members of H&I or members of Alcoholics Anonymous who are friends or acquaintances of the panel leader. For the Orange County jail system panel guest must be a member of H&I and have a clearance badge from the Sheriff's Department. Prison panel guest must be cleared in advance for the facility they wish to visit. Prison and jail panel guest must be at least 21 years old and have at least one year of continuous sobriety, although there are some panels that require longer lengths of sobriety. Hospital panel guest usually must have a minimum of six months of sobriety, but some panels require one year or more of sobriety.

How is H&I run?

All members of H&I and the H&I board are volunteers who want to be of service to A.A. by carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those confined to a hospital or institution. In keeping with the Seventh Tradition of A.A., we are self supporting through a monthly collection and donations from A.A. groups. Books are purchased and distributed by the committee. We welcome donations from individuals or groups to help get books and other literature to those we serve.

Is it safe to go into the correctional facilities?

The work we do is generally safe, but there is always the potential for danger. Some panels deal with inmates who are HIV positive and there is occasional exposure to TB and other diseases. Following the rules of the institution is the best way to avoid unnecessary risk.

The prisons have policies regarding the treatment of hostages in the event of a disturbance. If there are any specific concerns about a particular facility, ask your coordinator, Corrections Liaison or H&I Director.

We go into correctional facilities at our own risk and everyone should be aware of these risks before volunteering for H&I service work.

**COME JOIN US AND DISCOVER
THE HIGH IN H&I
FOR YOURSELF!!**