

US JIP Committee Report –November2017

Mitch L- BOT Chair Liaison

Bea A. Area 3- Chair

October & November 2017

LITERATURE REQUESTS

We had 4 requests for literature during the months of October & November

3 Female inmates – Lynwood CA, Corona, CA & Phila, PA

1 Male Inmate – Coal Township, PA

ISO filled all literature requests.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE Pen Pal/Sponsor Needed – Philadelphia, PA - ISO provided literature to this individual. She is presently incarcerated in Cambridge Springs, PA. Would like recovery support, as there are no programs in this facility.

Any female GA member interested in assisting this woman should contact Bea A, Area 3 at 702-812-1922

Resignation & Service Opportunity ☺

My brothers and sisters! It has been my privilege to serve on the JIP committee for the past 6 years or so. At that time, Rick B took this project on when the US JIP committee was about to be disbanded. The gavel then passed to Roger L for a term, and then to me for 2 terms. It is now time for me to move on and I will be ending my service commitment at the end of December this year.

I am hopeful that someone picks up the baton so that we may continue to serve those in greatest need. This is important and meaningful work! Our literature says “prison, insanity or death.” Many of our “fellows” serve time due to a gambling-related crime, only to find little or no support for gambling addiction RECOVERY inside the Prison walls. Stigma and misunderstanding of gambling addiction exists even within Jails and Prisons, and often gambling is easily accessible within the prison walls.

During my time of on the committee I have found that starting or chairing meetings inside of institutions is often challenging for a variety of reasons including remote location of the institutions, strict institutional regulations and requirements of those who **are** willing to serve, and so forth. Still our fellows have managed to maintain some long-term ongoing meetings within prisons and I give them huge kudos! It takes all of us, in whatever capacity we are able, to serve!

This committee, along with the support of ISO has improvised and done the best we can to offer **connection** and a lifeline to those in need. All who request literature receive it through ISO. We have ongoing Pen Pal relationships that are meaningful to those inside and outside of the prison walls. Many who serve have told me these Pen Pal relationships are some of the most enriching 12-step work they do.

If you are considering stepping up, I encourage you to go for it! Do the best you can. You may or may not personally start or chair prison meetings. That is NOT a requirement of service. We started the PenPal program as solution to a problem. The most important thing we can do is continue to offer a lifeline and connection. Along with the “baton” I will happily pass on a comprehensive spreadsheet which I have maintained for the past 6 years to offer history and context to where the committee is at presently – and you take it from there☺

Many thanks to all who continue to serve and thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the fellowship that means so much to me!

Respectfully submitted,

Bea A.