

## NCWSA INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

### **Why the Pink Cans?**

The Institutions Committee of Northern California World Service Area is an organized committee with the purpose of carrying the Al-Anon/Alateen message into institutional facilities.

*The Pink Can Fund provides Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to Al-Anon/ Alateen members who are confined and not able to attend meetings in our communities. See (G-9)*

Some members are incarcerated in state prisons, county jails, juvenile detention centers and group homes while others are voluntarily confined to crisis shelters and mental health wards. Northern California Institutions provides support to groups registered with the WSO as an Institutions Group, as the incarcerated individual most likely will have little or no money to purchase literature. Some Institutions meetings have members who are transient within that organization and others are more long term. State prisons will have individuals spending 15 years to life. The Pink Can, with your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars, pays for the books, pamphlets and other Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to meet the needs of these types of facility.

In the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015, our Fellowship donated \$34,825.65 to the Pink Can Fund. NCWSA Institutions purchased \$39,319.05 of AFG books and literature that same year. Today eleven state prisons, as well as two county jails, three juvenile halls and two rehabilitation centers for women with children receive our literature. The Al-Anon and Alateen members are confined at these facilities. Four other state prisons have invited NCWSA to start Al-Anon meetings in their facilities.

*This Fund does not provide any financial support to the Al-Anon participation at the annual Northern California Hospital & Institution Conference. It also does not provide any travel reimbursement for the Area Institutions Coordinator.*

There are 10 other state prisons (a total of 21 within NCWSA), 4 federal institutions, 25 state prison fire camps and 2 state youth facilities within the boundaries of NCWSA that do not have Al-Anon or Alateen meetings. There are also 46 counties within our area. Most likely each county will have men and women's jails along with juvenile detention centers and group homes. The long-term vision is to supply literature in a fair and equitable manner to as many registered Al-Anon/Alateen Institution meetings in the previously mentioned facilities as possible.

Al-Anon members involved in Institutions service are not paid for their time nor are they reimbursed for their travel expenses incurred in carrying the message into these facilities, regardless of the distance. It is not unusual for an Institutions volunteer to drive over 150 miles on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. These travel expenses are a personal contribution by the individual.

*The NCWSA Institutions Committee suggests that the Pink Can be passed separately from the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket to avoid diverting financial support from the 7th Tradition.*

The Institutions Committee service for weekly meetings in state prisons was started in 2009. Institutions Coordinator Louise M. started writing to state prisons in 2006 requesting to bring Al-Anon meetings in for the inmates. In August of 2009 Louise M., Yvonne de G. and Dan M. started the first NCWSA Institutions meeting on security level 2 in Solano State Prison, followed a week later by a weekly meeting at security level 3. Yvonne deG started the Pink Can Fund with the help of Jay & Tina upon the request from Louise in order to pay for the literature that was needed. This action provided CAL for the following prisons in order of their first Al-Anon meeting: the California Training Facility (CTF) Soledad in December 2009, San Quentin H Unit in October 2010, the Camp at Folsom in November 2011, later in the Folsom mainline population, the Folsom Women's Facility February 2013, Deuel Vocational Institute in March 2013. The first Men's Spanish language meeting started in CTF Soledad in November 2010. The first Al-Anon three day Convention held in a state prison was at CTF Soledad July 2016.

*We are humbly grateful for the generous contributions, both financial and in service, from the Al-Anon fellowship. Without your continued support, this 12<sup>th</sup> Step service would not be possible.*

For additional information please write to the NCWSA Institutions Pink Can Fund, 1 W. Campbell Ave., Rm. Q-82, Campbell, CA 95008 or email [Institutions@ncwsa.org](mailto:Institutions@ncwsa.org).

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