

AA 2023 National Corrections Conference Report
November 10-12, 2023
By George P
NIA Alt. Corrections Chair

The 2023 National Corrections Conference was held in Oklahoma City on November 10 through 12 hosted by Area 57. There were 242 registered for the conference. The proceedings were held in person and online. This document is a report not the minutes of the Conference – these are my impressions. When sighting a speaker, I tried to get the gist of the presentation, these are not direct quotations.

Friday Evening, November 10

The Conference was opened by Norman L. who was also the emcee for the event. The theme for the event was Just One. See the attached event schedule for further details.

Chaplain Leo Brown, the Chaplain of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (ODOC), spoke in gratitude for the meeting (attended by many of the conference attendees) held Thursday evening at the J H Lilley Corrections Center. He also spoke of the shift by ODOC to an emphasis on rehabilitation (hope) and the importance of faith-based programs in the ODOC facilities. He encouraged us that when denied our goals (like entry into a facility) to “keep knocking on the door.”

Matt B. performed an original musical composition “Just One”.

Norman L. welcomed the attendees.

Thornton S. spoke on “Why are we here?” to introduce the evenings program. He encouraged us to spread the word, work together, take it one day at a time, lamented at the lack of credentialed volunteers, and to apply for and get your DOC badge.

At or about this time a live stream was established with the Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution in Lima, Ohio, the San Quentin State Prison in California, and the J H Lilley Correctional Center in Boley, Oklahoma.

Panel presentations from corrections professionals:

Chaplain Frankin Gregory from ODOC, gave a homily on redemption and the Cross.

Warden Tamika White from the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center (female prison) in McLoud, Oklahoma, spoke of the need to support the inmates and acknowledge their problems while not enabling them.

Chaplain Brown spoke on policy issues and procedures as they relate to corrections work within the ODOC.

Evening speaker:

Jimmy D., Southwest Regional Trustee (2019-2023), and Texas DOC volunteer, spoke on our lack of respect [as active alcoholics] for loved ones, ourselves and the laws of society. He emphasized the need to know and communicate that AA has an answer, and the need to be in AA and not just going to AA.

The evening closed with one-minute reports from the Area correction committee chairs on the activities in their areas.

Saturday Morning, November 11

Matt B. performed “Just One”.

The invocation was delivered by Chuck C. – The Birth of A.A. in Texas (see addendum).

Panel presentations from formally incarcerated members:

Mike K. spoke of bringing an attitude of change. He bridged the gap on his first night of release from prison. He related that inmates were people who wanted to change, but didn't know how.

Kyle H. told how the AA volunteers met him where he was at. He expressed gratitude for being able to work as a Chaplain in the [Livingston Parish] sheriff's department after serving 23 years in Angola for five felony convictions.

Wes S. expressed gratitude for the support from the family of the woman he killed while driving drunk. The AA meetings in McAlester (Oklahoma State Penitentiary) gave his respite from prison life while gathering the fellowship in the prison chapel.

Presentation of Trusted Servants – Badged Volunteers

Sharon S. related that it was better to be a retread (relapse) than a flat tire. She felt that without inside meetings she would have been under the penitentiary rather than carrying the message in to it.

Jeff G. told how his life changed once he stopped praying for Jeff's will and started praying for God's will. We will face many hurdles in carrying the message inside the walls, but the rewards are amazing.

Tony P. related that as an active alcoholic he lived his life as if he were driving a station wagon. When he encountered a problem, he tossed it in the back. When he finally hit the wall all those problems came back to him. He acted tough, but he was really scared. He was trusted with AA responsibilities and was told don't screw this up. Not just for you, but also for the people behind you (inmates). Don't believe your "can'ts", believe in God's plans.

Zoom panel – Inside Members

Martin G. by way of J H Lilley Correctional Center, has been able to stay alcohol free by following the rules [of AA]. He encouraged all of us to find our own Higher Power.

Inmate (missed their name) from Allen Oakwood Corrections Institution stressed the importance of separating yourself from your old habits by helping others. Though locked up for 31 years he is free in his heart.

We were unable to establish a video link with San Quentin State Prison.

Saturday Afternoon

General Service Office (GSO) Corrections Staff panel presentations

Mike L. – West Central Regional Trustee and Interim Chair of the General Service Board (GSB), spoke on the importance of our upside-down triangle. He related that the only difference between him and the incarcerated was that he had a good lawyer. He stressed the importance of the "on the ground" corrections work and that his job was to deliver information to the people doing the corrections work.

Jon W. – Senior Grapevine Editor, requested that we send in our stories of hope, even if we are not good writers. He encouraged us to watch AA videos on the YouTube channel and to download and try the Grapevine App.

Teddy B-W – Coordinator of Grapevine Board, asked has your Higher Power forgiven you? He felt it would be arrogant to reject God's love. Many inmates have access to the internet and if

they don't, they will someday. He encouraged all of us to take advantage of the electronic channels that carry the AA message.

Eileen A. – head of Regional Forums desk former head of Corrections desk at GSO, related the considerable success in matching AA on the inside and outside through the Corrections Correspondence Service, and in gaining access by tablet to 344 facilities (nationally) with over 400,000 tablets distributed. She encouraged us to attend the International Corrections Meeting held on Sunday evenings (see addendum).

Andie Moss – Class A GSB Trustee, related her journey of surrender and gratitude. How that it was easy to be grateful for and surrender to the good things but how we struggle when facing “the vicissitudes of life”. Her best staff members were those who had lived the experience (recovery). She encouraged us make connections with the facility administrators, board members, or other external advocates with an interest in the facility.

Corrections Tributes

Steve M. told us how our disease grows in [our] isolation, whereas recovery flourishes in fellowship. He related the importance of being identifiable to our prospects and to treat people at the level they will become. He said, we need to know what heaven is like so we can want to / be able to leave hell.

Rito V. related that he started with a “been around [AA] date”. He told us if you don't nurture the seed, it won't grow.

Saturday Evening

Evening Speaker

Bob D. told us that the most effective and immediate remedy for an [active] alcoholic is a drink of alcohol. Alcohol allowed him to pretend to not be: fearful, shy, awkward, and inadequate. It is our incompleteness that drives us to alcohol. While in early recover and asked to do service work by his sponsor, he responded with “Don't you want me to work on myself?”, to which his sponsor replied “No, you've done quite enough of that.” He told us how he related to the idea in Carl Jung's letter to Bill W. that the alcoholic has a thirst for a union with God.

Host Selection 2025

After hearing presentations from Annapolis, MD, Nashville, TN, and Salt Lake City, UT, and several (4?) rounds of voting, Nashville, TN was awarded the 2025 National Corrections Conference.

Sunday Morning

Invocation

Norman L. invoked that we don't know who the next One may be and that we need to be looking out for them. He related that the more steps you take the lighter the load gets.

SETA (Southeast Texas Area)– Shares & Events

Vivan asked how are your hearts? A question asked her by a death row inmate. We do not get to understand God, we get to experience God.

Roy told us that AA is our plan C. He encouraged us to bring something to the meeting, even if it's only a Big Book. Carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Rito related how laughter is a good thing – it's healing. He spoke of the importance of Dr. Bob's four reasons to pass on the message of AA (see BB page 181). Keep knocking on the door. Be patient, AA will outlast any obstacle.

Rolo encouraged us to get in relationship with the facility's staff all the way up to the warden [or sheriff].

Norman L. then passed the NCC banner on to the Charlotte, NC group.

Respectfully submitted,

George P.

November 15, 2023

NIA Alt Corrections Chair

Addenda

National Corrections Conference Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this weekend is for members of Alcoholics Anonymous interested in Corrections work to come together to share experience, exchange information, and hear from corrections professionals, current and/or former inmates, and other trusted servants throughout the fellowship. We hope to inspire A.A. members everywhere to get involved in this important and rewarding service.

Just One

2023 National Corrections Conference

Oklahoma City, OK
host committee in cooperation with:
Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution
San Quentin State Prison and
John H. Lilley Correctional Center

Historical Zoom Conference Presentation
Saturday, November 11, 2023
at 10:30 a.m. CT / 8:30 a.m. PT

- An all inside members of A.A. share their experience, strength and hope on one Panel at the 2023 National Corrections Conference.
- Three members, three states and three facilities: Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution, San Quentin State Prison and John H. Lilley Correctional Center together for a one-time event during the 2023 National Corrections Conference!

Don't miss out!
\$20 Contribution gives you an All Weekend Zoom Pass!
Zoom ID and Password available on our website below:
nationalcorrectionsconference.org

(November 10-12, 2023, Embassy Suites, 5233 NW Expy, OKC, OK)

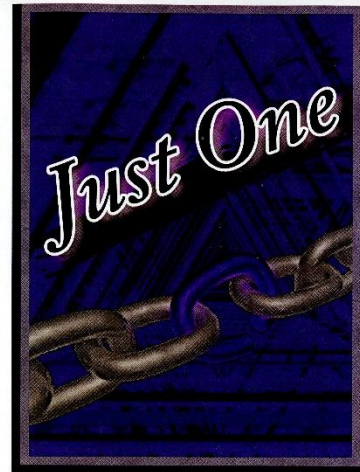
Responsibility Statement

**I am responsible,
when anyone,
anywhere,
reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA
always to be there.
And for that:
I am responsible.**

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the SERENITY
to ACCEPT the things I cannot
change, COURAGE to change
the things I can, and
WISDOM to know the
difference.

*Thank you for attending
and
We'll see you in North Carolina in 2024!*



6th Annual

2023 National Corrections Conference

November 10-12, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton
3233 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Just One

Welcome to the 2023 National Correction Conference

November 10-12, 2023
Oklahoma City, OK
(all times are CST)

Friday, November 10, 2023

- 2:00 p.m. Registration Opens
- 4:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Opens
(Opens at 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Closed during all programs)
- 7:00 p.m. 2023 NCC Welcome Prayer
Chaplain Leo Brown
- 7:20 p.m. "Just One"
Performed by Matt B.
- 7:30 p.m. 2023 NCC Opening
Norman L., 2023 NCC
"Just One"
- 7:45 p.m. Evening Program
Why are we here?
Thornton S.
- 8:00 p.m. Correction Professional Panel
Leo Brown - OK DOC Chaplain
Chaplain Gregory - John Lily CC
- 9:00 p.m. Speaker
Jimmy D., SW Regional Trustee
(2019-2023)
- 10:00 p.m. Roll Call
Area Chairs- 1 Minute
- 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Closed

Just One

Saturday, November 11, 2023

- 5:30 a.m. Hospitality Room Opens
(Opens at 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Closed during all programs)
- 8:00 a.m. Invocation: Chuck C.
- 8:05 a.m. "Just One"
Performed by Matt B.
- 8:10 a.m. Introductions of Panel Members
by: Angela T.
Wes S.
Kyle H.
Mike K.
- 9:15 a.m. Coffee Break (10 minutes)
- 9:25 a.m. Introduction of Trusted Servants
Badged Volunteers by: Callie H.
Tony P.
Sharon S.
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break (15 minutes)
- 10:45 a.m. Zoom Panel - Inside Members
Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution
John H. Lilley Correctional Center
San Quentin State Prison
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. GSO Corrections Staff Panel
Mike L.-West Central Regional Trustee
Interim Chair, General Service Board
Jon W.-Grapevine
Eileen A.-Regional Forums
Teddy B. W.-Coordinator Grapevine Board
- 2:00 p.m. Coffee Break (15 minutes)
- 2:15 p.m. Andie M., Class A Trustee
Followed by Q & A
- 3:30 p.m. Corrections Tributes
Introductions by: Thornton S.
Steve M.
Rito V.

Just One

Saturday Cont'd November 11, 2023

- 4:30 a.m. Coffee Break (15 minutes)
- 4:45 p.m. Fellowship Time
Networking with friends old & new
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner Break
- 7:00 p.m. Banquet
- 8:00 p.m. Evening Speaker
Introduction by: Matt M.
Bob D.
- 9:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social
- 9:30 p.m. Hosting Selection 2025
Stacy C.
- 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Closed

Sunday, November 12, 2023

- 5:30 a.m. Hospitality Room Opens
(Opens at 5:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Closed during all programs)
- 8:00 a.m. Invocation
Chuck C.
- 8:10 a.m. SETA - Shares & Events
- 10:00 a.m. Passing the Banner to
North Carolina
- 11:00 a.m. Closing
Norman L., 2023 NCC Chair

Thank you for attending!



EVERY SUNDAY
internationalcorrections@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL CORRECTIONS MTG

**CORRECTIONS SERVICE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE CONFINED ALCOHOLIC**

**OUR PURPOSE IS TO SHARE BEST PRACTICES &
EXPERIENCES IN CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO THE
INSIDE MEMBER.**

**ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE
ABOUT AA CORRECTIONS SERVICE IS WELCOME.**

**We meet first & last Sunday at 6p EDT
& the remaining Sundays at 11am EDT**

Zoom ID: 841 1036 5604 PW: 223 531

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THE BIRTH OF A.A. IN TEXAS

by Paul W.

The seeds of Texas A.A. were planted in the winter of 1940 when Larry J., a newly sober newspaperman from Cleveland, took a job with *The Houston Press*. Larry was sponsored by Dr. Bob & Clarence S. (Clarence's story, *Home Brewmeister*, appeared in the first three editions of the Big Book) Larry completed the steps while detoxing in the hospital, and did not attend a single meeting before coming to Houston. He boarded the train to Texas with nothing more than the first edition of our basic text and a spiritual experience.

During this train ride, Larry had another spiritual awakening while reading the Big Book. This led him to write a six part series on A.A. for *The Houston Press*, which was published in February of 1940. These articles were the catalysts for two major events. Not only were they eventually re-published as A.A.'s [first pamphlet](#), they also put Larry in touch with Roy Y., a native Houstonian. These two men would form the first Texas A.A. group in April of that year. The original Houston Group still meets today.

Larry J. is also believed to be the author of the "Texas Prayer", which was used to open A.A. meetings across the state for years. The prayer, which can also be found in Bill Pittman's book *Stepping Stones to Recovery*, is as follows;

*Our Father, we come to You as a friend.
You have said that, where two or three are
gathered in Your name, there You
will be in the midst. We believe You are
with us now.
We believe this is something You would
have us do, and that it has Your blessing.
We believe that You want us to be real
partners with You in this business of
living, accepting our full responsibility,
and certain that the rewards will be
freedom, and growth, and happiness.
For this, we are grateful.
We ask You, at all times, to guide us.
Help us daily to come closer to You, and
grant us new ways of living our
gratitude.*

Unfortunately, Larry's story ended on a sad note. He found himself at odds with the early Houston members and they formed a steering committee to replace him as the leader of the Houston group. He became resentful over the matter and was never able to fully reconcile with the other members. He returned to active addiction and he was unable to regain his sobriety, save for a few brief intervals. Larry J. passed away in May of 1944.

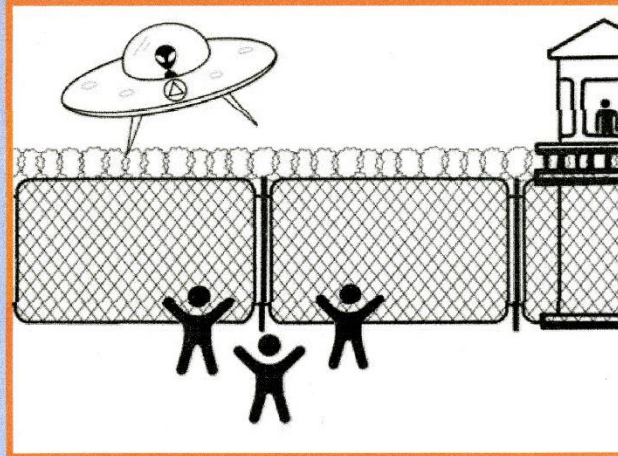
However, his struggles at the end not diminish the fact that Larry J. founded A.A. in Texas. And for that, we all owe him a debt of eternal gratitude.

7th Annual National Corrections Conference



Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel
3315 Scott Futrell Drive,
Charlotte, NC 28208

Rocketed Into A 4th Dimension



Death Row Package: Registration; Banquet, Ice Cream Social, Hospitality, Coffee, T-shirt = \$140 (save \$20)

Medium Security Package: Registration; Banquet, Hospitality; Coffee, T-shirt = \$130 (save \$15)

Juvie Package: Registration; Hospitality; Coffee, T-shirt = \$80 (save \$10)

Individual prices: Registration or Scholarship -\$50; Banquet-\$55; Ice Cream Social-\$15; Hospitality-\$10; Coffee-\$10; Zoom-\$25; T-shirt-\$20

**Nov.
8 – 10,
2024**

For more information, contact: Angel – NCC2024@gmail.com 305-972-7979
Registration information: Sandy – sblamprecht@gmail.com 252-813-1055

Registration

Name _____ Scholarship Name (if purchased) _____

Address _____ Email _____

Area _____ Name on badge _____ Phone number _____

Package purchase _____ Individual events purchase _____

If a t-shirt was ordered, please state size _____

If you purchased the banquet, please choose one option: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

Checks payable to: National Corrections Conference P.O. Box 1201, Mebane, NC 27302