



# H&I FROM H AND I

LA Hospitals And Institutions Newsletter

## JANUARY 2012

### Los Angeles H&I Committee:

**Director:**

Kurt F.

**Assistant Director:**

Kim P.

**Policy Board Chairperson:**

Jeff L.

**Treasurer:**

Lisa W.

**Director, Correctional:**

Mary Jo T.

**Director, Hospitals:**

Andy V.

**Literature Chairperson:**

Francesco R.

**Webmaster:**

Bryce B.

**Raffle:**

Judy L.

**Literature Fund Chairperson:**

Lydian T.

**Panel Screening Chairperson:**

Miki O.

**Forms Chairperson:**

Patti G.

**Newsletter Publisher/Editor:**

Meryl J.

## How AA Came to LA

Excerpts from the AA pamphlet, "How A.A. Came to Los Angeles," available at Central Office. Used with permission.



County General Hospital

In 1939, Genevieve Dodge had a serious drinking problem. It was not her problem. She was not an alcoholic. The problem she had was other people's alcoholism. She could not understand why, time after time, persons arrested for being drunk and disorderly, persons sentenced to jail for 30 days, persons battered and bruised and beaten up while drunk would go back out and get drunk again. She

wanted them to stop drinking. Why couldn't they stop drinking?

Genevieve Dodge was a social worker and she was employed as a probation officer in the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles. She was convinced that alcoholics were not criminals. They were mentally sick. And she was convinced they could be straightened out. She suggested to Superior Court that alcoholics be given an alternative to the drunk tank. Superior Court agreed. So, for the first time in this country, an alcoholic could be admitted to the psychiatric ward of County General Hospital. There he must attend sessions of a special class. It was an experiment.

Could the insanity of alcoholism be treated like any other severe form of mental illness?

(continued on page 4)



### DOES YOUR MEETING HAVE AN H&I CAN?

Help get literature to AA's who are locked up and cannot get to meetings. Bring a can to your regular meeting and take up a collection.

The money you collect pays for AA literature handed out on panels. Ask for an H&I LABEL at the "Cans" table at H&I. Your meeting can donate a portion of its 7th Tradition, or members can make personal donations. However you choose to participate, donations are gratefully appreciated. You really *can* make a difference! **THANK YOU!**

### CONGRATULATIONS to Kurt F., Jeff L., Andy V. and

**Kim P.** on their new positions on the H&I Committee as H&I Director; Chairperson, Policy Board; Director, Hospitals; and Assistant Director, respectively, effective 1/1/12.

And a big and gracious **THANK YOU** to **Jeff L., Margo R., Kurt F. and Samantha C.,** for their distinguished and dedicated service as H&I Director; Chairperson, Policy Board; Supervisor, Hospitals; and Assistant Director.



## Making Contributions to H&I

If you collect money for H&I at your meeting, please note that we are requesting that all monies turned in be in check or money order form, payable to LAHIC. Money orders can be purchased at 7-Eleven for 69 cents or at any post office for \$1.50. This new policy will ensure the integrity of monies collected on the part of H&I, as well as provide a record of your meeting's contribution. Please make your group aware of this policy, and thank you for your generous contributions to H&I!



# Welcome! From the Director of H&I



Greetings, H&I committee members! As we start the New Year, I want to thank you all for the opportunity and privilege to serve as H&I director. This coming year promises to be an adventure. Having been on the policy council these past four years, I can tell you that this is the year we are moving forward with a few ideas that have been planned for a long time.

To begin with, we now have an "INFORMATION" table so that people new to the H&I meeting won't have to wander around aimlessly wondering where to begin. In addition, we are trying a new format for the H&I business meeting with the hope of engaging the interest of our members so they will be inclined to stay for the entire meeting. The raffle will no longer be the second half of the meeting. Rather, it will only be five minutes long at the end of the panel sign-up period and will serve as the time to return to our seats for the resumption of the business meeting. The 50/50 will still be at the very end of the meeting. It is the hope of the policy council that we can still raise sufficient monies through the raffle, yet have members stay interested enough in the meeting, so that they will be present in the last fifteen minutes enabling us to fill open panel speaker and leader positions.

Next, another idea the committee hopes to launch this year will be to increase the "Hi from H&I" newsletter distribution. We really want to use this newsletter as a communication tool for H&I and hope to have up and running, in the next month or so, a subscribe/unsubscribe feature on our website, where anyone who wishes to receive the newsletter via direct email can do so. Ideally we want H&I reps at Los Angeles meetings to be better equipped to share with their respective home groups exactly what we do in H&I.

Also in the spirit of reaching out, we are increasing our H&I outreach program, which is headed by Tina H-B. A small group of enthusiastic H&I members are visiting Los Angeles area AA meetings that have no H&I representation and inviting them to be a part of our meeting and inspiring others to join us in the joy of service that we have all found in H&I.

It is my hope that every H&I representative will convey in their announcement that H&I is not just a literature fundraiser, and will therefore raise awareness of our monthly business meeting and make clear that we have ample opportunities for people to speak on and lead panels in both hospitals and penal institutions. We need support and participation.

As always, we are continually looking for a better venue to accommodate our monthly meeting. I am asking you all to stay on the lookout for a venue that is affordable, will be happy to have us, has ample parking, will allow coffee and cookies, and is centrally located.

Finally, this year we want panel leaders who have been noticeably absent from H&I to return to our monthly meeting, thus making speaker positions available to our attendees--especially to those who are new to H&I. I want to revitalize H&I. Let's have fun with it!

*Kurt F., H&I Director*

# 2012 H&I Positions

By Kurt F.

I am proud to announce that this year all of the H&I committee's appointed positions are filled.

The following is the list of appointees and additional commitment people. Aside from panel leaders and speaker positions, H&I does have a few open commitments available. This year we need to have a location scouting crew looking to find us a better venue for our business meeting. We need a signs/set up person, and also people to sell raffle tickets who can commit to being at the monthly meeting by 7pm every month. There is always something to do here in H&I and it's a great place to serve. If you would like a commitment please contact me and I am sure we will find something for you.

## **Appointed Positions 2012:**

Assistant Director: Kim P.  
 H&I Intergroup Representative: Tom C.  
 Convention Booth Chairperson: Alberto P.  
 Website Chairperson: Bryce B.  
 "Hi from H&I" Newsletter Editor: Meryl J.  
 H&I Outreach Chairperson: Tina H-B.  
 Literature Chairperson: Francesco R.  
 Panel Screening Chairperson: Miki O.  
 Literature Fund Chairperson: Lydian T.  
 Correspondence Program Chairperson (Bridging the Gap): Gregory I.  
 Central Service Committee Representative: Al T.  
 Orientation Chairperson: Kim J.  
 Forms Chairperson: Patti G.  
 Scribe: Michelle K.

## **H&I Commitment People:**

H&I Sound Equipment: Bill A.  
 Sign-in Table: Cyrus C.  
 H&I Raffle: Judy L.  
 Information Table: Elizabeth H.  
 Newsletter Distribution: Gregory G.  
**Signs/Set-up: OPEN**  
**Location Scout: OPEN**  
**Raffle Ticket Sales: OPEN**

# How AA Came to LA

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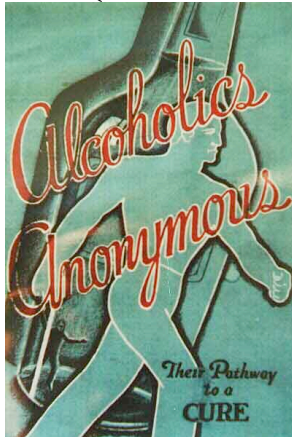
Dodge had an equally enthusiastic partner in the experiment. He was John Howe, a young psychologist and social worker. Howe was convinced that men and women drank alcoholically because they had unconscious conflicts and if these could be explored and resolved in group therapy, the desire to drink would go away. The drunks went to the classes which lasted two hours and took place five times a week in the hospital. They sobered up. They resolved to live sane and decent lives forever more. And they went and got drunk all over again.

Yes, Genevieve Dodge had a very bad drinking problem. She didn't give up though, and neither did Johnny Howe. They became obsessed with the mystery of alcoholism. In December, Dodge heard about a lady who was going around Los Angeles giving interviews to newspapers; a crazy lady who claimed she had a book which explained why men and women drank and which had a solution to the problem that was driving Genevieve Dodge and Johnny Howe up the wall.

Alcoholics Anonymous started in Los Angeles when two women started talking to each other—and neither one was an alcoholic! The lady with the book was Kaye Miller and Genevieve Dodge was the lady looking for a solution to the mystery of alcoholism. Kaye Miller's pursuit of a treatment for alcoholism began when she married Ty Miller, the son of an Ohio industrialist. He was a hopeless drunk. She loved him and tried every form of treatment known to dry him out and keep him sober. He got worse.

Ty's lawyer had a friend in Akron who told them about Bill W. and Dr. Bob's recovery and the Akron Group. Kaye phoned Bill W. in New York. She said Ty was sober at the moment and she wanted to bring him to New York. He was a periodic drinker. Bill W. suggested that she postpone hitting him with the idea of Alcoholics Anonymous until he was coming out of his next drunk. Well, Ty remained sober 2 years. They moved to Los Angeles to begin life all over again and, as Kaye later said, "Ty went on a drunk here to end all drunks. It lasted 4 months. He couldn't get out of it this time. He was scared and desperate. I was at the end of my rope..."

In May 1939, the first draft of the original version of "Alcoholics Anonymous" was completed. In order to raise money for its publication, 400 copies of the manuscript had been mimeographed and were sent to interested parties who were asked to buy shares in the Works Publishing Company which would print the book. (Bill W. and Bob S. called it the "Works Publishing Company" because they believed they had the first program for alcoholics that "really works.")



Original Big Book cover

Kaye received one of the first copies of the manuscript. She didn't read the book, but strangely enough, Ty Miller did. He said it was the first time he had ever seen something which understood him—who he was and why he drank. He said this book was talking to him.

Kaye saw something in her husband's eyes she had never seen before. She did not have the patience to read the book, but she wanted to get her drunken husband to an A.A. meeting. She wired the New York office and they replied, "There is no group west of Akron, Ohio."

So she and Ty pulled up stakes and went to Akron and from there to New York. She would get the answers to her husband's problems right from the man at the top—from Bill W. himself. She finally cornered Bill W. in the office and asked him how she could make her husband stop drinking.

He shocked her. Instead of talking about Ty's problems, he talked about hers. He told her she was spiritually bankrupt. She must let go of her husband. "Bill told me," she recollected, "that I had been an extremely bad wife because I had broken all his falls for him and never let him hit bottom." She listened. For the first time this arrogant woman had met a man who humbled her because of his own spiritual strength and unselfishness.

She went to her first A.A. meeting in New York. She said goodbye to Bill W. and told him: "I'm going home to Los Angeles, and if Ty can stay sober on these 12 steps of yours for 6 months, I'm going to beat the drum of Alcoholics Anonymous up and down the state of California, I swear to God." Bill smiled. He handed her the hard-cover first edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" in its yellow and red jacket and its garish red binding.

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She returned to Los Angeles by ship and now, for the first time, she read the book. She made a decision, “I didn’t give a hoot whether Ty stayed sober or drunk—that’s his life... my own life was just a beginning...I only knew that the most important thing was that never again should a wife, or any non-alcoholic in the position I’d been in, have to cross the country to find help. Yes, I could tell them in California that I had personally seen 50 or 60 people who used to be drunks, who were now sober and had been for a long time. I could say this and say I had seen it with my own eyes. I could tell them that it was all in this book and the very least I would do was tell them what I had found, if I did nothing else the rest of my life.” And it was this book which Kaye Miller gave to Genevieve Dodge who gave it to Johnny Howe.

The strangest thing about the first edition was the last chapter. It was called Lone Endeavor. It was the story of a man in, of all places, Los Angeles. Yes, the first drunk in Los Angeles who sobered up on the 12 steps and whose story was in the book, was a person named Peter C. So even before A.A. came to Los Angeles in the form of meetings, it had already come to L.A. through the written word. Here’s how that happened. Pete C.’s mother had heard about A.A.; she had written to New York. She received a rough draft of the first 2 chapters of the book. When the manuscript was completed, Bill W. sent Pete C.’s mother a copy of the mimeographed edition. He wrote: “We would appreciate hearing about your son’s condition and his reaction to this volume. Won’t you please write us?”



First edition cover

Pete C. wrote and told the story of his recovery. It was the first time an alcoholic had found the answer through, and only through, the book. Bill W. was so impressed by the letter that he made it the final chapter of the book. It was not reprinted in the later editions. Pete C.’s sobriety was a milestone in A.A. history because it proved that you did not need direct contact to recover. This was the start of what became the Loners and Internationals group—persons who work in lonely jobs like the shipping trades. Through correspondence with the Loners and Internationals office at GSO in New York they maintain a link with A.A.

Johnny Howe read the book “Alcoholics Anonymous.” He invited Kaye Miller to join the meetings of the psycho class of alcoholics. She talked the straight A.A. program as she had learned it from the book and her meeting with Bill W. Johnny laid out the psychological aspects of the disease. Among the first converts was Barney H., who was sobering up in a psychopathic ward of County General Hospital. (There was no alcoholic ward at that time.)

Kaye Miller had not divorced Ty. She was living in a small house on Benicia Street in Westwood. Chuck and Lee T., a couple from New York, arrived in Los Angeles. Bill W. had given them Kaye’s number. Kaye decided it was time to have a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Los Angeles. The first meeting of A.A. in Los Angeles took place on December 19, 1939, at her home. Nobody knew exactly how to run a meeting. Kaye knew there had to be doughnuts and coffee. There were doughnuts and coffee. Besides Kaye, there was Johnny Howe, three other non-alcoholic social workers, Ethel and Barney H., Chuck and Lee T., Chauncey and Edna C., Joy S., Dwight S., Walter K., and Hal S.

Kaye Miller telegraphed Bill W.: Los Angeles held its first meeting tonight. Fifteen present.

On January 19, 1940, after Hal S. became sober for good, he started carrying the message to the Lincoln Heights jail. He attended every meeting of A.A. in the area. Hal S. was one of the first Angelenos to get sober and remain sober.

In the Central Office archives at 4311 Wilshire Boulevard, you can look at a torn and faded copy of the first edition of “Alcoholics Anonymous.” This is the very book which Bill W. gave to Kaye Miller who gave it to Genevieve Dodge who gave it to Johnny Howe who gave it to Hal S. It was presented to the Los Angeles Central Office in 1977 by Ethel S. On the flyleaf she wrote:

“This is the original A.A. book brought to Kaye Miller in Los Angeles. I am not certain of the exact date when Kaye gave the book to Johnny Howe. Hal entered the County General Hospital on Friday, January 15 (1940) and left Tuesday, January 19. Hal must have been the first person to read this (book), probably January 16 through 18. Eventually Johnny gave the book to him.”

Kaye continued to hold meetings at her place and at other person’s homes. The meetings were informal and were by invitation and were rather disorganized. Very few persons maintained sobriety. Mrs. Miller became discouraged. Drunks came to a meeting or two and returned to their alcoholic habits. Had the experimental psycho class failed? Was jailing drunks the only way to get them off the streets? Kaye went to Hawaii. She returned and thought about starting another meeting. But she really had no heart for it. Would there ever be a person like Bill W. who could light a fire of A.A. in this city?

Next month in *Hi!* From *H&I*, read the conclusion of *How AA Came to Los Angeles*.

## Thank you for the opportunity

By Andy V., H&I Hospitals Director

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the gift of allowing me to serve as Hospitals Director for Los Angeles Hospitals & Institutions. No words can express the appreciation I have for this group and the impact it has on me and countless others that suffer from alcoholism. I am eternally grateful to Samantha C. and Laura A. for suggesting me for an Area Supervisor position. I also must thank Kurt F., our new Director of H&I, for setting the bar high and teaching and believing in me. But most importantly, thank you to the many people that make this happen each month: the area supervisors, panel leaders and speakers that really keep the spirit of service alive. Happy New Year!!!

Warmly,

*Andy V.*

## Angel Fund Update

By Lisa W., H&I Treasurer

The Los Angeles Hospitals & Institutions Committee would like to thank its generous contributors to our Angel Fund. Thank you, Angels, for helping us stay self-supporting and for enabling us to meet the financial obligations of administrating the committee. Also, your help makes it possible for LAHIC to send leaders and speakers into institutions to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **2011 Angels:**

Jan M.	120.00
Patti G.	120.00
Anonymous	160.00
Stan P.	50.00
Sam C.	30.00
Stephen B.	105.00
Michael C.	150.00
Nicolette	40.00
John S.	120.00
Sheila J.	50.00
Dylan R.	65.00
Michael R.	120.00
Deborah K.	60.00
John F.	120.00
Paul F.	60.00
Gene	60.00
Gina C.	10.00
Ken T.	20.00
Harvey P.	10.00

# Events Calendar

## **January**

1/27 – 1/29 - It's the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual "Our Hats Are Off to You!" San Fernando Valley AA Convention, with Al-Anon participation, at the Marriott Warner Center, Woodland Hills! Meetings include GSO, H&I, Young People, Long-timers, Marathons, Banquet, Spiritual Breakfast, Golf Tournament, Raffle, and more! Don't miss this amazing convention! For more info: <http://www.sfvaaconvention.org>

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## **February**

Mon., 2/13 – Don't miss the monthly H&I meeting!

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2/24 – 2/25 - A Day in the Steps to a Deeper Spiritual Experience, Des Moines, Iowa  
A speaker meeting (2/24/12) and workshop (2/25/12) with Herb K., Rolling Hills Estates, CA. Herb will walk through the steps with an in-depth review of the Big Book and the Twelve & Twelve. This workshop is intended to provide a deeper understanding of the Twelve Step process and possibly even a new experience. All 12-Step fellowships are welcome. Registration is \$30. Space is limited!  
For more information, please call Marlou P. (515) 205-9301

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## **March**

Mon., 3/12 – Don't miss the monthly H&I meeting!

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3/14 – 3/17 – Seniors in Sobriety, International AA Convention, with Al-Anon participation, in Yuma, Arizona. Includes AA and Al-Anon workshops/panel discussions on recovery from the senior perspective. Paddle boat tour of the lower Colorado River, bus tour of the historic Yuma and agriculture areas. Held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Pivot Point, 310 North Madison Avenue, Yuma, AZ. Registration is \$50, mailed to: Seniors in Sobriety, PO Box 25659, Yuma, AZ 85367. For more information: <http://seniorsinsobriety.org>

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3/15 – 3/18 – The 40th Annual All California Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous in Ontario, CA. This is a great convention with 220 speakers and panelists conducting marathon meetings, hospitality, workshops, entertainment, archives, literature, main meetings, discussions, participation, and plenty of volunteer opportunities. Held at the Ontario Convention Center, 2000 E. Convention Ctr. Way, Ontario. Registration \$15/\$20 (after Jan 1st) / \$25at-the-door, mailed to: ACYPAA 2012, 212 E. Rowland Street, #142, Covina, CA 91723. For more information: [www.acypaa2012.org](http://www.acypaa2012.org)

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## **April**

Mon., 4/9 – Don't miss the monthly H&I meeting!

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4/13 – 4/15 – The 31st Annual Southern California Hospitals & Institutions Conference in San Diego. Featuring panel discussions on corrections, hospitals, contact-on-release, Al-Anon H&I, Northern California H&I and the Family Afterwards, and much more all about H&I. Held at the Bahia Resort, 998 W. Mission Bay Drive, San Diego. Registration: \$15. For more information, please visit: [www.socalhandi.org](http://www.socalhandi.org) or e-mail [socalhandi@gmail.com](mailto:socalhandi@gmail.com)

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4/27 – 4/29 – "Miracles Happen 2012" at the annual AA Convention with Al-Anon participation sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian fellowship of Orange County in Laguna Beach. For more info: <http://www.miracleshappen.org>