

Area 53 Alameda County Hospital & Institution Committee
Guidelines for H&I Guest Speakers

Thank you for your willingness to carry the message of AA to the alcoholic who is confined. We hope that you've already attended an H&I Orientation, but if you haven't, the following guidelines will familiarize you with the policies of our Committee. Please note that these are not merely personal opinions, they are guidelines approved by this Committee and based on "that which experience has taught us".

Qualifications for H&I Guest Speakers: minimum six months of continuous sobriety; completed AA's 12 steps of recovery with a sponsor. Guest speakers should not be otherwise affiliated with the facility at which they are speaking.

Guidelines:

- In keeping with AA's primary purpose, and to avoid confusion with other 12-step programs that might go into the same facilities, we refer to ourselves simply as alcoholics (for example, not as "alcoholic/addicts") and discuss our problems in terms related only to alcoholism.
- Keep your share to a reasonable length, focusing on the solution, not the problem; prolonged drunkologues and romancing our drinking are discouraged.
- Profanity, lewd or obscene language is strongly discouraged, both by our Committee and by the facilities which host us.
- Dress appropriately – clean, neat, and casual, no holes in our clothes, no revealing or sexy clothes, no logos. Remember, while you do not 'speak for AA', you are representing AA.
- Do not take messages for inmates into or out of the facilities, as this can result in getting the meeting banned.
- To protect the safety and anonymity of our volunteers, we do not offer or agree to sponsor attendees, or give them our phone number or contact information. If they want to meet with you after their release, you may refer them to the printed meeting schedule to note the meetings you regularly attend, or to aasf.org for the on-line meeting schedule.
- Respect full anonymity of both inside attendees and outside members of the Fellowship. · If you are feeling uncomfortable or unsafe, IMMEDIATELY contact the staff of the hosting facility.
- Remember that visiting these facilities is a privilege extended to us. We are there at the invitation of the facility. If anyone, at any time, violates the rules or regulations set by the facility administration, our privileges can be, and have been, revoked. This applies especially in serving as a go-between for someone who is on the inside and someone who is on the outside.

And finally, HAVE FUN! Many people report this to be one of the most rewarding and satisfying forms of service they have done, and we hope that your experience encourages you to get further involved with our Committee - either as a meeting volunteer, an H&I Group Representative or both.

