

Minutes of AVP California Steering Committee, July 22, 2006, San Francisco, CA

NEXT MEETING DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, Los Osos near San Luis Obispo. Meet for lunch and then have a meeting following. The Annual AVP/CA Fall Gathering is November 11.

In attendance: Katherine Youngmeister, Stephen Matchett, Christine Sauer, Ann Boone, Vicki Rumbaugh, Mark Thomas, Alice Waco, Bob Barns, Giri Sequoya, George Ramos
All present received a notebook with materials from the website and to be discussed in this meeting.

Meeting called to order by Katherine Youngmeister in the San Francisco Meetinghouse/AFSC offices at 9:45 a.m.

Gathering: Everyone shared their favorite story showing why I believe AVP works.

Report on Prisons: George Ramos presented a summary of the workshops we have done in the past year with details of each prison. This data is attached to these minutes. In the past year we have done 100 workshops, developing facilitators inside each prison where we are. His question to the group was: do we want to continue expanding to new prisons this year or shall we focus on developing facilitators. Discussion followed.

DECISION: This year we will focus on developing outside facilitators in areas where AVP is in a prison as well as heavily populated areas where people might be available to travel. Though this development of trained facilitators and leads is a higher priority than opening new prisons, we will follow the direction of any prisons that actively seek our involvement. This means we will not engage in the follow-up contacting; however George will make one more contact to the list of five recent warden referrals.

Developing infrastructure to continue expanding

The group divided into two groups to work on two separate projects. Notes of those are attached: Force Field analysis and Elevator Story.

Workshop scheduling

Prison workshop schedule by month was passed around for filling out. We are working at establishing regular monthly schedule for workshops (such as MTW first week of the month) in each facility where we are established.

List of all community workshops scheduled for the fall was posted. Those present are encouraged to develop community workshops in their areas by August 1 so a flyer can be created to be handed out at the Pacific Yearly Meeting of Friends. See website for complete up-to-date list of workshops.

State-level promotion of AVP/CA Community workshops for Fall 2006 was reviewed in the notebook received by all present.

ACTION: Alice volunteered to provide a list of nuns who might be contacted.

Discussion on *money received from local areas* still under AVP California's oversight evoked the following. Stephen had been tracking these for an area. two areas?

DECISION: All money collected as donations or at community workshops will go to and used to support the work of AVP/CA. When a local council is established and ready to be on their own the will handle their own fees and donations.

Developing Leads and ensuring trained facilitators are getting involved was referred to the 7:30 Friday Morning group to deal with. Advanced notice shall be given of when this subject will be part of the discussion

L&L: Office supplies Pattern Ball by George

Fundraising

Prison Food Sales. A number of different groups in prisons have indicated an interest in raising money for AVP through food sales in the prisons to prisoners. The state level conversations have indicated that the local prisons handle these and we should deal with them.

DECISION: We are in learning phase and will watch and learn from food sales and keep communicating on how they work, but not discourage their happening for the benefit of AVP.

Grantwriting.

DECISION: At this point we are not going to actively focus on grantwriting, this year.

Personal letters. These were very successful for Pat this last year. Some present indicated an interest in sending out letters, others did not speak to the subject.

ACTION: Pat was asked to send out samples to others to create their own early Fall letter.

Lunch

Re-entry: A time I was afraid in prison....

Steering Committee Business

Minutes from the May 1, 2006, Conference Call of the Steering Committee were approved as presented in the notebook.

Finance Report was presented by Stephen Matchett. Stephen present a first quarter financial report, attached, which incorporated the new chart of accounts Stephen and Katherine, developed to more accurately reflect the work of the committee.

DECISION: Revised Chart of Accounts was accepted by the committee with addition —under 620 Prison Staff Trainings— of Payment of AVP Staff trainers.

ACTION: Budget Committee composed of Stephen, Pat and Katherine will prepare a budget and present it at the next meeting, perhaps by conference call.

Steering Committee Commitments for 2006-2007 A sheet was circulated to those present to determine what their donations in Lodging, Food and Transportation cost might be for this year. Again, their generosity is overwhelming, with all willing to pay their own food costs, All but two who “sometimes” were willing to pay for their own transportation costs. Four said they would like lodging costs paid by AVP/CA, Four indicated their willingness to sometimes pay for their lodging.

Meeting dates for next year will be set at the November 10 meeting prior to the Annual Gathering.

All officers are willing to continue. Any changes can be made at the next meeting where they would normally be approved.

ACTION: Pat, Vicki and Alice agreed to serve on an ad hoc Nominating Committee to bring a recommendation for Steering Committee members and officers to the Fall Gathering. They will contact existing members and will consider what AVP CA needs at this time in Steering Committee members.

ACTION: **November 11 Fall Gathering, Los Osos:** Pat and Katherine will work on the program. Janet Riley and Gay Howard have again agreed to handle the local logistics. Details to follow.

Training Prison Staff

Vicki Rumbaugh reported an upcoming conference call with *CDCR Staff Development* Director Nancy Baldwin following up on previous discussions with that office on AVP working with them in training staff.

California Correctional and Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) aka guards' union has invited AVP to present a workshop at their annual meeting of union leadership in Reno, September 7. Bob, George, Katherine and Pat will be attending this. Feeling that this was a particularly sensitive and

important group for us to present to we asked John Shuford and he has agreed to facilitate this workshop with us at only the cost of his travel expenses.

ACTION: Pat will consult with John on dress and she will develop a one-sheet that we can hand out which gives the list of Fall community workshops, statistics of where we are similar to those George presented and research all focusing on reduction of violence in the prison.

Training of AVP facilitators to train prison staff is also being done by John Shuford, September 25&26 in the Ontario/Claremont area. Some will then facilitate a 3-1/2 hour workshop over two separate days at the Chicano Correctional Workers Association in Ontario. 11 people are presently signed up (Bob, Alice, Ann, Vicki, George, Stephen, Katherine, Pat, Kenya, Martie, and,??). Pat is working with the Claremont Meeting to arrange low-cost lodging for us and a meeting site. Details will follow.

How much to pay AVP facilitators training prison staff.

ACTION: An ad hoc group to research this and present a suggestion back to the Steering Committee volunteered: Vicki, Ann and George.

Reports

Centerforce Conference Last year Bob and Pat attended this conference and, while offering a workshops that was poorly attended and having Luis Frias discover us again, few results at recruiting people resulted. Their staff indicated an interest in taking workshops and are on the AVP database. Doubt about the value of our attending this year was raised.

DECISION: AVP/CA will not be involved with the Centerforce conference this year.

Correspondence with prisoners who write our P.O. Box. At a previous meeting we decided to send a form letter to prisoners who write us. This has not worked as well as we thought, so Pat is now tweaking a couple of paragraphs depending on the request. Individual letters are forwarded to the particular facilitator to whom it has been addressed with a letter thanking the writer for their letter.

Filmmakers' Progress:

George has been touring with Noel Schwerin to CTF and CMC. She is deciding between filming at Soledad CTF, Blythe CVSP and San Luis Obispo CMC.

ACTION: The committee reviewing Annina Lavee's films has seen them however has not had a chance to meet together nor to meet with her, which they will do before making a recommendation.

Transformer newsletter delivery to AVP facilitators in AVP/CA prisons after their first free year was discussed.

DECISION: AVP/CA will continue to pay for facilitators' (in AVP/CA prison) subscriptions at \$5/year, but want them mailed directly to them. The coordinators at the prisons were not in favor of their delivering them into the prisons.

College credit: Alice reported that the community college service credit is being discussed in Susanville as possibly being fulfilled by taking an AVP workshop series however school was out before it was approved. Conversations are continuing.

Recruiting for Diversity report prepared by Kimberly Rosa and reviewed by Rossie Johnson was discussed as presented in the notebook. It is a good base for recruiting for any community workshop. It will be put on the AVPCalifornia.org website.

Meeting adjourned after a group closing (Thumbkin) at 4:30 p.m.

