

10am - Sharing Session Opened with the Serenity Prayer by Coree H. Chair. DCMs, visitors, and GSRs attended. Our meeting is open to everyone to learn and participate on the topics. **Please bring radios. Announcements.** Recording secretary announced providing your email to be included on the email list.

Presentation - Homeless newcomers by Meg B. → Meg's motivation to present and learn more about this topic came from the awareness of injustices in society. She encouraged us to think about how we can "rightly relate ourselves" to alcoholics that are homeless. She shared how the traditions and steps apply to carrying the message to alcoholics that are homeless (i.e., tradition five, tradition three, tradition six, and step twelve), and the experiences of alcoholics that are homeless are present in our literature and history. According to statistics, California has a substantial homeless population, and circumstances that contribute to homelessness include domestic violence, mental illness, and other addictions. She believes that we still have a responsibility to carry the message to alcoholics that are homeless despite some believing homelessness is an "outside issue." Meg conducted interviews with alcoholics in preparation for this presentation and found that many had to change their approach to sponsorship when working with homeless newcomers (e.g., calling every day, regular meetings, influences of those having experienced PTSD, lack of resources, etc.). Alcoholics she interviewed who experienced homelessness shared that feeling welcome and getting into service kept them coming back and inspired a feeling of gratitude. She spoke about how alcoholics that are homeless may disrupt meetings and suggested we address the behavior, call the police when appropriate, and welcome them back. She shared how various A.A. groups are using methods to address the needs of alcoholics that are homeless. She suggested remembering our primary purpose, to respect to our own boundaries, and address the tendency to "fix" the problems of homeless newcomers that don't pertain to alcoholism.

Members shared. Summary/take home points:

- Some members shared the difficulties they have faced with setting boundaries when working with alcoholics that are homeless, and other shared their experiences with being homeless themselves
- A member suggested not talking about their homelessness, especially if it makes you uncomfortable, and instead greet them kindly
- Members shared how they have helped alcoholics that are homeless:
 - Allowing them to work to earn money
 - Offering extra coffee and snacks from the meeting
- One member shared that she doesn't see many homeless women in recovery meetings, and another shared that homeless members seem to be younger and younger
- A member shared that not all alcoholics that are homeless have the same story, experience, and background and cautioned against making assumptions
- A member shared how he tells alcoholics that are sober that they are sacred beings and have a sacred story, reminding them that they can have a spiritual experience and find a connection with a power greater than themselves
- A member shared how he could have been homeless if it weren't for the support of his family and friends, and believes that those that are homeless are simply less lucky than he was for not having the same support that could prevent them from experiencing homelessness
- A member shared that alcoholics that are homeless probably have the same desire to recovery but have too much pain and confusion in their heart, making it harder for them to recover

Discussion of topics for next month: 1) Reaching out to the African American alcoholic, 2) Treatment centers saying "relapse can be part of recovery," 3) The spirit of participation in Agenda Topics **March's Topic →** The spirit of participation in Agenda Topics by Rafael from District 40

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM with the Responsibility Statement

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah B., DCM Sharing Session Recording Secretary