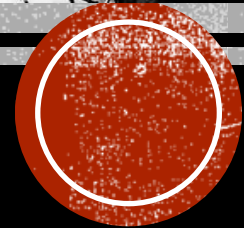


# SETA CFC WORKSHOP



OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015



# **A.A. IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS PRISONS, JAILS, AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**



# OUR BEGINNING...

The fellowship of A.A. was in its 7<sup>th</sup> year when a pioneering warden at San Quentin prison in California asked nearby A.A. members to carry our message to alcoholics inside the prison. The year was 1942---the warden was Clinton Duffy. He wrote about the need for prison A.A. groups at our 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference in 1950.



# WARDEN CLINTON T. DUFFY



...of what possible good is A.A. in prison? Prisoners are shut away from alcoholic beverages so why would they need A.A.? Almost daily grateful letters and articles sent to the *Grapevine* by inmates answer these questions. Recently an inmate wrote,

**“No, you can’t get a drink on the inside, but I saw a man die from drinking the fluid out of a fire extinguisher!”**



# A.A. IN TEXAS PRISONS





# “THE WALLS”

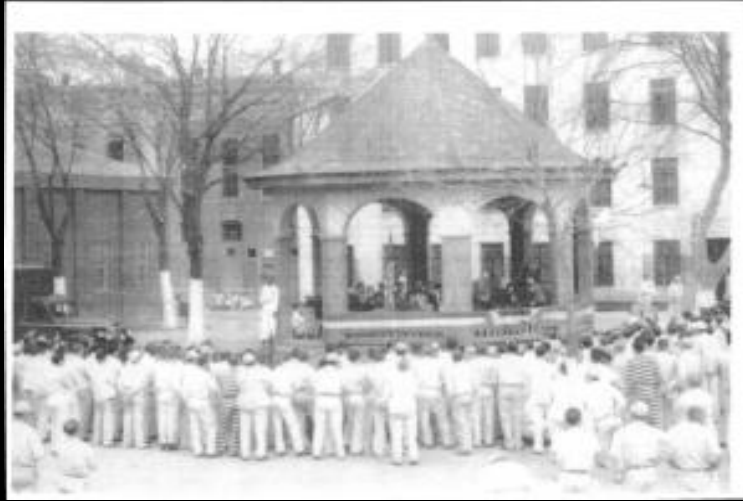


Alcoholics Anonymous inside Texas prisons began with 5 men under an oak tree in the recreation yard inside the “Walls Prison” in Huntsville. In 1946 they had one hand typed copy of the “Big Book”, each other, and a strong desire to stay sober. These 5 founding inmates, who were ridiculed by the other inmates for their efforts to stay sober, established the

“Texas Prison Group #1”

In 1948 Volunteers started going in and the Pathfinders Group came about and this A.A. group is actually celebrating their 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an A.A. group next weekend.





- AA Groups have been established all over the state.

Right after the first AA meeting at “The Walls” or Huntsville Unit a meeting started at the only womens prison at the time. The Goree Unit. Other meetings soon followed.

Just south of Houston The Darrington Unit has been hosting volunteers for AA meetings since 1951. The Ramsey Unit has had AA/NA meetings since 1952.

- The Diagnostics or Byrd Unit, as it is known today, started a meeting in 1964.
- The Units in Gatesville have had meetings as early as 1974 when they were mens units and in 1993 these units were converted to womens units and they continue to have meetings today. The Womens Units in Dayton also have many meetings.
- Harris County, Galveston County and Fort Bend have had meetings since 1982





- The first alcoholic inmate in the Texas Prison System was taken to the AA State Convention in 1951.
- Free – world interest increased and meetings started popping up and, as a result, 95% of the inmates that had 6 months or more of AA while in prison never returned.





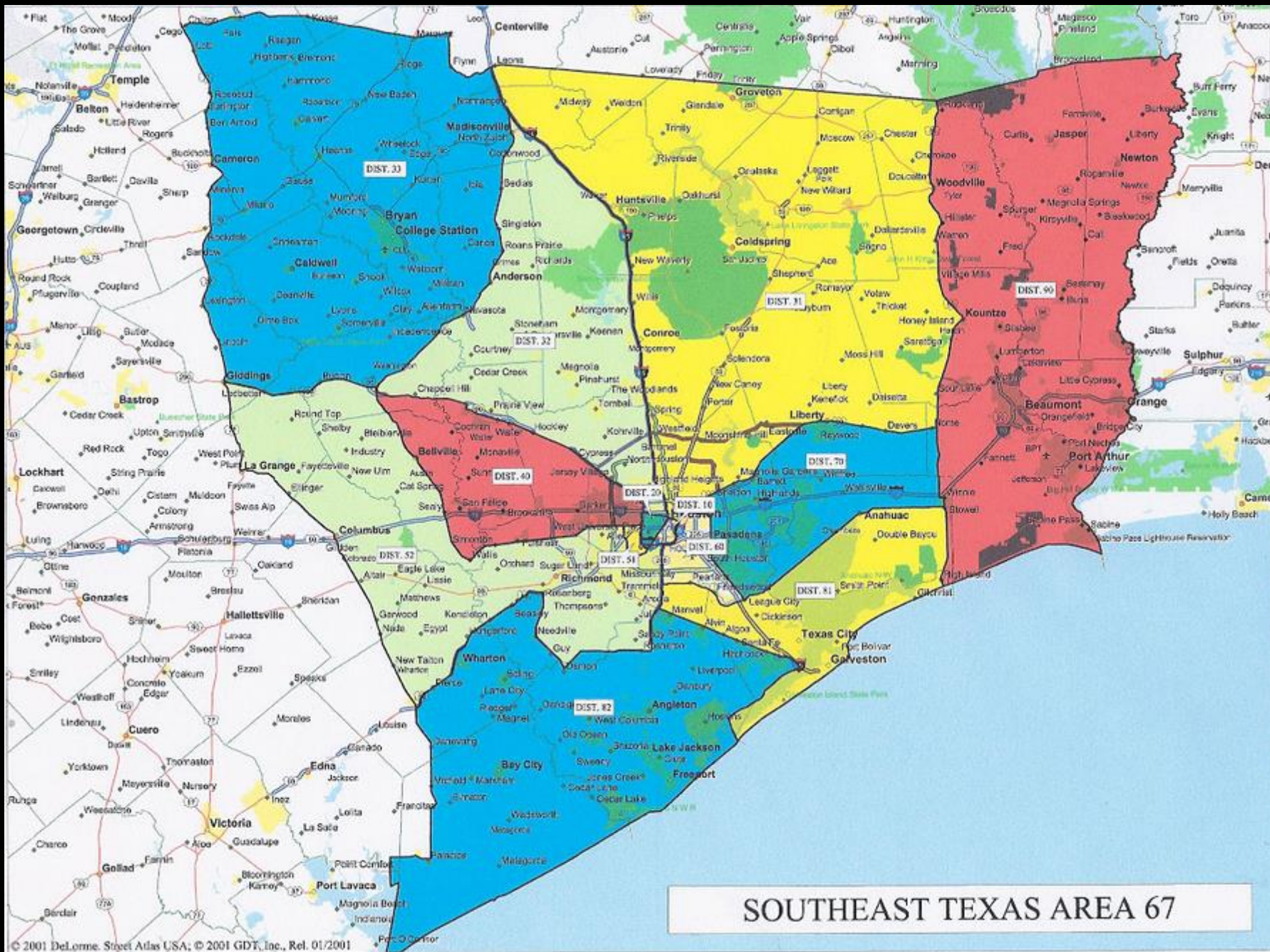
# CFC COMES OF AGE...

The first Correctional Facilities Committee was formed in 1977 when the Institutions Committee of the General Service Conference was dissolved, and two committees were formed: Correctional Facilities and Treatment Facilities. Local corrections committees have been established throughout the years, most of them working in collaboration with local intergroups or central offices, and within the organizational structure of local institutions committees.



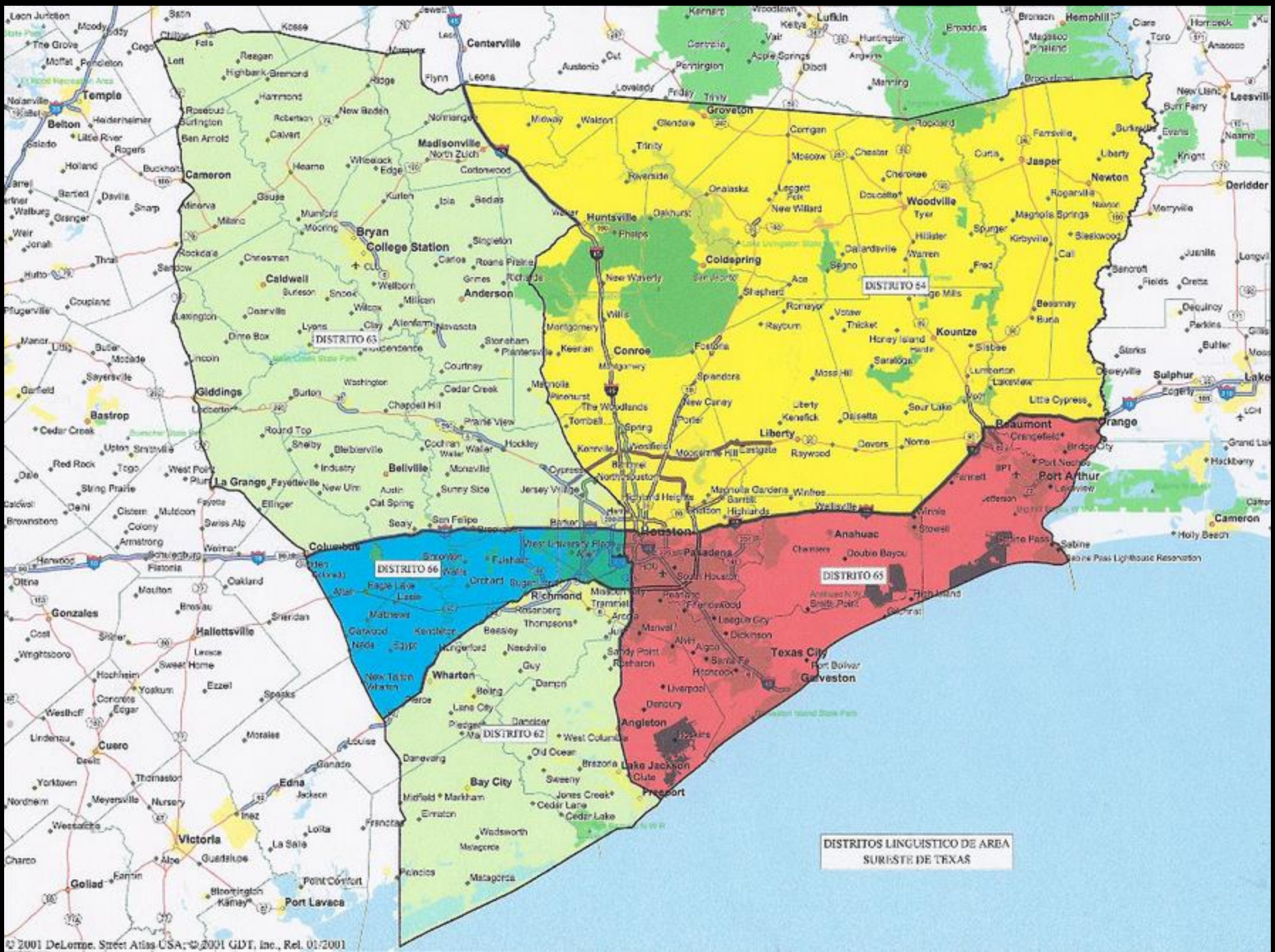
# AREA 67 CFC





SOUTHEAST TEXAS AREA 67





DISTRITOS LINGÜÍSTICO DE AREA  
SUR-ESTE DE TEXAS



# **SETA CFC PRIMARY PURPOSE**

- **Southeast Texas Area (SETA) CFC carries the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the suffering alcoholic behind the walls of our jails and prisons, which includes City Jails, County Jails, TDCJ Jails, TDCJ Prisons and Federal Correctional Facilities.**



# SETA CFC RESPONSIBILITY

- Taking AA meetings inside correctional facilities
- Distribution of and accountability for Conference-approved AA literature purchased with SETA Blue Can donations
- Answering letters from incarcerated inmates through the Correspondence Program
- Setting up contacts for pre-release inmates
- Carrying the message through information tables and presentations at workshops and conferences



# CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

- Become a TDCJ Approved Volunteer, TDCJ Approved Partners Program Volunteer, or TDCJ Special Volunteer.
- Become an Approved Volunteer in your local County or Municipal Jail.
- Become an Approved Federal Correctional Facilities Volunteer.



# BLUE CAN

- Make and distribute Blue Cans to Area 67 Groups.
- Collect and account for all Blue Can contributions made by Area 67 Groups and individual members.
- Approve and process all Literature Requests and Orders from approved volunteers and incarcerated alcoholics.
- Purchased Literature distributed by means of mail and Approved Volunteers.
- Post Group Blue Can Contributions at regular intervals both at Area Assemblies and on the Area 67 website.
- Provide written thanks to contributing Blue Can Groups.





# CORRESPONDENCE

- Complete SETA CFC Correspondence Application and follow the AA Correspondence Guidelines provided.
- Share your message of hope with an incarcerated alcoholic and make their day!
- Always use the Return Address provided by SETA.
- If you travel or prefer, CFC Correspondence Chair will email your correspondence to you.
- We share SOBRIETY and SOBRIETY ONLY – men with men, women with women.
- In the spirit of the twelve tradition, we respect the anonymity of our correspondents.



# PRE-RELEASE

- Pre-Release requires the use of two GSO provided forms.
  - An INSIDE form for the Inmate within the facility,
  - And an OUTSIDE form for the Volunteer.
- The INSIDE AA Member within 6 months of Release Date, requests an OUTSIDE AA Member to be their Temporary Contact, utilizing Zip Codes.
- When contacted by the CFC Pre-Release Chair, the OUTSIDE AA Member (Volunteer) will begin a correspondence with the INSIDE AA Member.
- When the INSIDER is released, the OUTSIDER and INSIDER will set up a meeting as soon as possible.
- The OUTSIDER will help the INSIDER adjust to attending their 1<sup>st</sup> local AA meetings.
- OUTSIDE Temporary Contact is to facilitate the transition to OUTSIDE AA Meetings as comfortable as possible.



# CFC WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- Attract new volunteers into Correctional Facilities AA Service.
- Communicate the importance of AA's 12 Traditions in all our service activities.
- Assist and establish CFC Workshops within various Districts of Area 67.
- Cooperate and work in harmony with Intergroups and other CFC Committees within the boundaries of Area 67.
- Create and produce an annual SETA CFC Conference that is self-supporting and communicates our insistence upon enjoying life in AA Recovery.

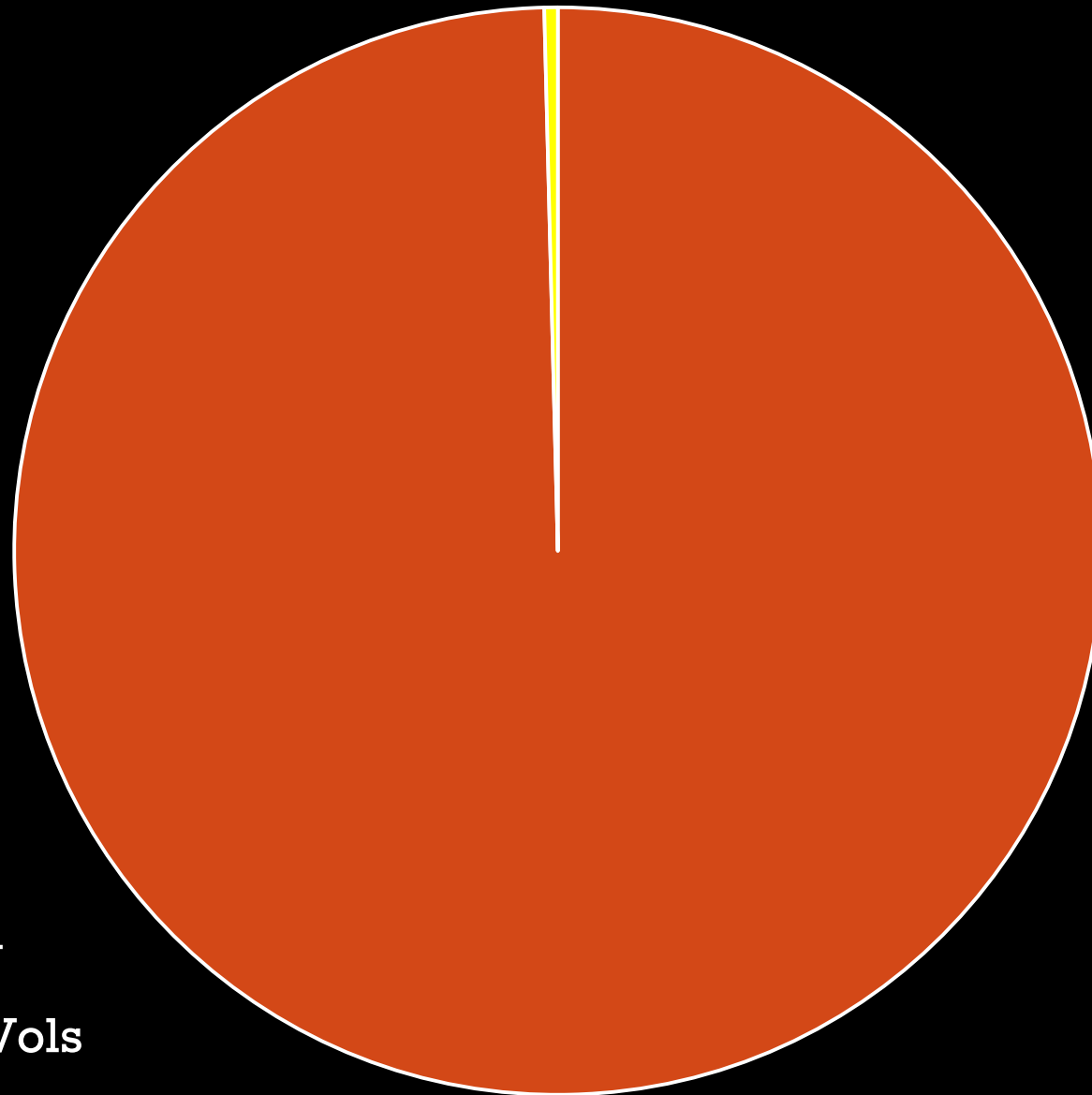


# SOBERING STATISTICS

- 106 Units in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice System.
- 162,500 Inmates in these institutions, NOT COUNTING Federal, County or City Correctional Facilities.
- TDCJ operates at 97.5% of total prison bed capacity.
- 50% of all Inmates were sentenced for crimes in which alcohol abuse was a significant factor.
- 86% of Inmates have an alcohol or substance abuse problem.
- TDCJ funding for counselors and alcohol literature has been cut.
- Studies show in-prison programs are effective!
- 96% of Respondents believe an Inmate's chance of making it on the outside is improved by participating in the AA Program.
- But it is believed that only 10% of Inmates in prison for alcohol-related crimes attend AA Meetings.



# All TDCJ Approved Volunteers

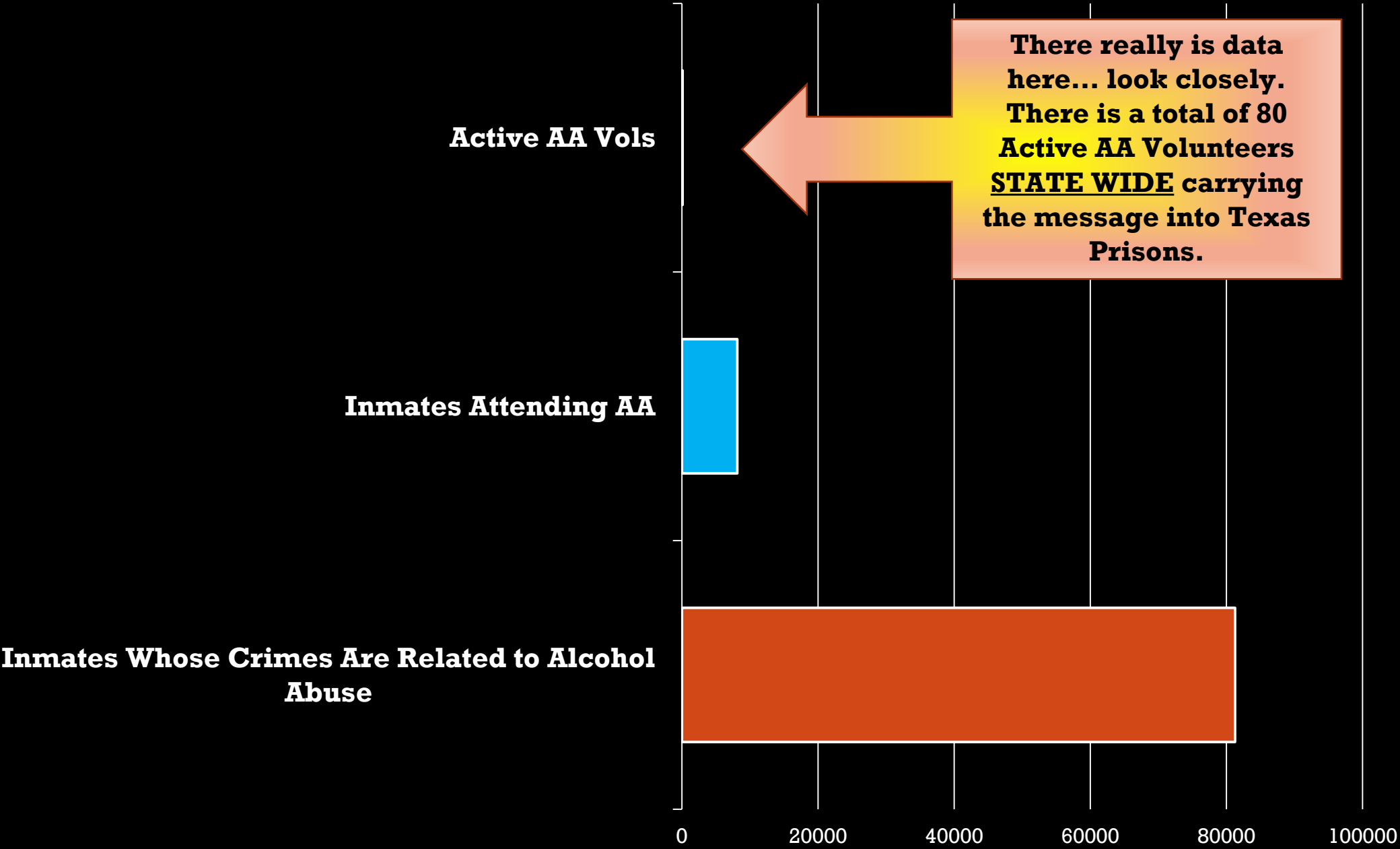


■ Chaplaincy

■ Active AA Vols



# Ratio of TDCJ AA Volunteers to Alcoholic Inmates



There really is data here... look closely. There is a total of 80 Active AA Volunteers STATE WIDE carrying the message into Texas Prisons.



**“IF THE PROGRAM WILL HELP  
JUST ONE MAN, I WANT TO  
START IT.”**

**~ WARDEN CLINTON T. DUFFY**



# W. J. ESTELLE JR. CLASS A TRUSTEE EMERITUS

- ‘In prison, not all alcoholics will admit they are powerless over alcohol. But as the years roll on, and they see the effect on others, the die-hards gradually come around. They see their lives have become unmanageable. They are getting a bit closer to ‘wanting to want to’.”

▪ ~ Jim Estelle





Please help us  
deliver the  
Hope...

