

The History of AVP CALIFORNIA

by Vibrant Vicki Rumbaugh, Greatheart George Ramos & Present Pat Hardy

Vicki: As a Quaker, Pat Hardy was first introduced to AVP by Karen Cauble from Alaska around 1990. She did some workshops in CA and set up a program in San Diego.

This program really spoke to me. In 1992, Pat Hardy and other Quakers from Santa Barbara - such as Barbara Cartwright, Nancy Lynch, James Robertson - started a program at the U.S Penitentiary at Lompoc, California in Lompoc. That program was in place for about five years before it ended. I also became a member of AVP National during this time period.



Front: Nancy Lynch, Karen Cauble, Pat Hardy, Barbara Cartwright, Pat Robertson, & James Robertson w/dog

Pat: In 2001, Janet Riley, another Quaker, asked me to help start an AVP program at the California Mens' Colony in San Luis Obispo. In January 2002, Janet Riley, Vicki Rumbaugh and I did our first workshop. The three of us were ultimately joined by George Ramos, Kimberly Rosa and Sherri Sorros. We were able to create a very active, productive program that actually ran until Covid shut it down (despite the fact that the original six of us moved on).

Around 2004/05, I was considering what I should do in the retirement chapter of my life. As a Quaker, I asked for a clearness committee to help me determine what to do. For those that don't know what a clearness committee is, it is a small group of people with whom I would meet each week. Their job was to ask me meaningful questions. I would go home, answer the questions. Then I would go back, answer, and the committee would ask more questions about my answers



Vibrant Vicki Rumbaugh & Greatheart George Ramos share some of the history of AVP California.

until I had a clear, spiritual answer to my query. It was through this process that I determined that I should devote the next ten years of my life to getting AVP into all the prisons in the state. Thus, this goal became my full time job for the next ten years. Fortunately, I have a wonderful partner, JoAnn, who supported my work and contributed time, money, and tons of hours of work herself to seeing AVP become established in roughly 25-30 of the 33 prisons in the state.

In May of 2005, National AVP held a gathering in Marin County. At the time, northern CA was in one general region and southern CA in a different region. I asked if northern and southern CA could leave the regions they were in and could become AVP CA. National AVP voted, agreed and we were formed. At that meeting, myself, George Ramos, Vicki Rumbaugh, Stephen Matchett, Steve Birdlebough, Katherine Youngmeister, Bob Barnes and Evelyn from San Diego became the first Steering Committee. People ask why these particular individuals. Because they knew and loved AVP. Also, they could afford to travel to the various prisons to work. At that time, AVP had no money to fund anything or to pay hotel/food/supply bills for those who might need support.