

The Inter-Com—Summer

Public Information (PI)

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

PANEL 65

SUMMER 2016 ISSUE

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- What is Inter-Com?
- Area goings-on
- Young peoples stories request
- About AA
- BC/Yukon Website
- How to Submit a Story

Welcome to the Summer Inter-COM!

We hope you are having a great summer, and that you have time to kick back and relax. Well except for Cyndi, as we know she is always busting it for service!

Please enjoy this issue, enjoy the summer, and don't forget the Western Canada Regional Forum in Kamloops August 26-29!!!

What is Inter-Com?

The Inter-Com is our newsletter, by us and for us. The newsletter is for the exclusive use of A.A. members who wish to exchange information about Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) work within Area 79. The Inter-Com is a Quarterly publication - Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall!

It is a fantastic opportunity for Districts, specifically PI and CPC Committees to share experience, strength and hope - new ways to reach the public and cooperate with the professional community - how you're doing in your district.

Please have your submissions for Fall 2016 Inter-Com in by Sept. 30, 2016

In this edition of the Inter-Com we will take a look at some of the experiences of our fellow A.A. in CPC, both on the receiving end and on the giving end! We will also look at some of the history of PI and CPC, and some of the highlights of PI throughout past of A.A.

Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Yours in Love, Unity and Service ...

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"Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die."

The A.A. Service Manual, "A.A.'s Legacy of Service" p.S1

Area News!!

Vancouver Intergroup is active in PI and CPC! C.J, the CPC Intergroup Chair, has an active committee, coordinating with District in their efforts to provide information to probation officers, at seniors centers, and at CPC luncheons.

Plus, they are putting on a Workshop: "Speaking with Professionals" on September 17.

Great work C.J.!

District 37 is putting on it's annual CPC luncheon on September 30. Thanks for the service Brook and the folks in District 37!

What does your Committee do?

Share your experience in the Inter-Com

GSO CPC is coming to Area 79!!

The College of Family Physicians of Canada will be holding their Annual Family Medicine Forum in Vancouver, BC from **November 9 – 12, 2016.**

Alcoholics Anonymous will have a booth in their exhibit area for display and distribution of A.A. literature to attending professionals, who may also have questions about what A.A. is and what it isn't.

This is being paid for by our General Service Office — they took care of the registration and literature, we just need to take care of staffing the table. So....

We need volunteers!!!

We will be staffing the table from about 9-5 each day. Staffing will consist of two people, for two hour slots. You will answer questions about AA, what it is, what isn't, where to find us, etc.



If you wish to volunteer, please send your name and contact info to Jeff Cooke, CPC Chair, BC Yukon Area 79, at cpc@bcyukonaa.org. Please indicate your preliminary availability Nov 9-12 and we will start setting up a timetable.

CALL FOR STORIES TO UPDATE THE PAMPHLET “YOUNG PEOPLE AND AA

Hey young AAs!! Get your pens/paper/iPads out! Lets hear “in a general way what you used to be like, what happened, and what you are like now”

From Albin Zezula, chair of the trustees' Literature Committee:

“In response to the 2016 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.” be revised to “better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today”, the trustees' literature committee is seeking current sharing from young people in A.A.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point typeface. The words "Young People and A.A." should appear on the top of the first page of the manuscript. The author's complete name, address and email/telephone information should be included with the submission.

Submissions can be emailed to: Literature@aa.org with "Young People and AA" inserted in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for all submissions is December 30, 2016.

See either Cyndi or Jeff for more information (contact info on first page)

How to Submit a story to the Inter-Com

We would love to hear from PI and CPC Committees with what is working, what is not working—looking for shared experience. If you have a particular question or topic you would like to ask of others working in PI/CPC work, feel free to submit your questions. We will publish it to be answered by others districts in a future newsletter.

Sharing experience, strength and hope within our Area.

It's as easy as 1 2 3

1. Email your story, submission, and/or question to: publicinformation@bcyukonaa.org or cpc@bcyukonaa.org
2. Please identify yourself by first name and last initial only, in keeping with our tradition of anonymity.
3. Please identify your contribution to the Inter-Com with District number and a brief review of where your district is within BC/Yukon and please specify if your committee is PI, CPC, or PI/CPC.

Your suggestions/comments/input are not only needed but are also greatly appreciated and will make our exchange successful.

SPOTLIGHT: "About AA" a Newsletter for Professionals

Did you know...

GSO has a newsletter for professionals!

From AA.org:

"About A.A. is the newsletter from the General Service Office of the U.S. and Canada for professionals of all types who deal with alcoholics, including professionals in the fields of healthcare, law, corrections and clergy."

You can check out a copy or subscribe at http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/about-aa-newsletter-for-professionals

A Newsletter for Professionals

Spring 2016

About AA

A.A.'s Cooperation With Treatment Settings

From its beginning in 1935, A.A. has worked closely with hospitals and treatment settings to help the alcoholic slow up and sober. A.A. cofounder, Bill W., himself was a patient of a treatment facility—the old Crown Hospital in New York City. Shortly after he got sober, Bill returned to Tenos to work with other alcoholics. A.A.'s other cofounder, Dr. Bob, a surgeon, realized upon sobering up the need for an alcoholic ward at St. Thomas Hospital in his city, Akron, Ohio. With the cooperation and support of otherwise-dedicated assistance of (non)alcoholic nurse Sister Ignatia, Dr. Bob established a ward for alcoholics. Together he and Sister Ignatia reached out to more than 2,000 alcoholics.

In carrying the message of sobriety into treatment settings, A.A. always has done so in the spirit of its Sixth Tradition, which states, "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." Thus, we cooperate but do not affiliate. A.A. is always ready to help alcoholics in treatment facilities, but public listing of the A.A. name can give the impression of affiliation. Therefore, an A.A. meeting or group that meets in a treatment facility should not bear the name of the facility.

Treatment facilities treat clients with a wide range of problems. A.A., on the other hand, is true to its single goal: A.A.'s Tradition Three spells out the aim of A.A.: "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Within this context, there is probably no better place for an A.A. member to reach out to alcoholics than in a treatment setting. According to the Fellowship's 2014 Membership Survey, 52 percent of our members indicated that treatment was a major factor in them coming to A.A. In some groups, in fact, a majority of new arrivals have treatment center experience upon coming to A.A.

"A nice handshake between two parties."

If it is a short-term facility perhaps two or three meetings a week may be brought in by A.A. volunteers. These members do not act in a professional capacity. They are not necessary to alcoholics in these centers, and helping them assimilate into A.A. when they get out, is part of what A.A. members consider basic to their own recovery—sharing their sobriety with another alcoholic in order to keep it themselves.

According to Peter Luongo, a Class A (metabolic) trustee on A.A.'s General Service Board whose experience in the alcoholic treatment field extends over 30 years, "The National Institute of Health (NIH) says that one of the hallmarks of good care in treatment facilities is the introduction of clients into Twelve Step Fellowships. Depending on the length of stay, it is generally more effective to bring the A.A. meeting to the facility—friendly to each work's schedule and not disrupt any other treatment and A.A. is not just a nice handshake between two parties."

Two types of meetings are held regularly in treatment settings: (1) A regular A.A. group meeting. A significant number of A.A. groups rent space in treatment facilities and (unlike in the same way as outside groups that meet in churches, schools and other



Mail address: Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 • (212) 870-3400 • www.aa.org

Check Out WWW.BCYUKONAA.ORG

WOW! Our BC/Yukon Area 79 Website has all sorts of useful information. Just some of the things you can find:

- Meeting information
- Events in Area 79
- Contacts for DCMs and GSC members
- Grapevine current issues and archives
- Agendas for upcoming Quarterlies and Assemblies
- CPC and PI information
- Much More!!!

If you can't find the information you are looking for, or it doesn't seem to be available to you, ask your DCM or a GSC member and they will be happy to help!