
THE INTER-COM

OCTOBER 2017

BC/Yukon Area 79
Public Information (PI)
Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)

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.

In this issue:

- Abbotsford CPC luncheon information
- District 71 event considerations

Notice: Opportunity for service!!

This year our Area 79 CPC Committee will again be setting up a table at the **BC College of Family Physicians' 2017 Fall Family Medicine Conference** which will take place October 28 & 29 at the Westin Bayshore in Vancouver. We are seeking members willing to help set up and attend the table where we will be able to speak directly with Family Physicians. Please contact Steve C, Area 79, CPC Chair if you would like to participate.

Please contact us for more information

Rio D; Public Information
Panel 67, Area 79 BC/Yukon
Email: publicinformation@bcyukonaa.org

Steve C; Cooperation with the Professional
Community Panel 67, Area 79 BC/Yukon
Email: cpc@bcyukonaa.org

Notes from Districts:

Abbotsford CPC Luncheon

District 39 Abbotsford would like to invite all members of Alcoholics Anonymous especially CPC/PI chairs to our upcoming CPC/PI luncheon for the professionals this coming November 17 at the Abbotsford Arts Centre. We are open to helping other districts to organize and hold their own luncheons. Join us at our second annual luncheon for the fun and the food. Please contact our CPC chair for more information. Tickets are limited.

(Letter to Professionals)

**Alcoholics
Anonymous®
Abbotsford**

August 16, 2017

Dear friends,

We would like to invite you to the upcoming Alcoholics Anonymous Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community luncheon.

Through speakers, a comedy skit, a film presentation, table discussions and an interactive question/answer session we will demonstrate how A.A. works together with the professionals in our community to help alcoholics and their families.

The luncheon will be held November 17th 2017 at the Abbotsford Arts Centre, 2329 Crescent Way next to Abby Secondary School, from 11:45 to 1:45.

A.A. has over two million members in over 180 countries, worldwide. Our ability to help alcoholics in those communities is greatly enhanced with the insight, expertise and the cooperation of our non-alcoholic friends.

We will be delighted to have you in attendance. Please RSVP us by October 31st.

Sincerely yours,

Jim R,
Chairperson, Cooperation with the Professional Community
Abbotsford, District 39, Alcoholics Anonymous cpc@abbotsfordaa.org

(Inter-Com reader please note that the invitation letter was sanitized for this publication)

District 71: event considerations

When invited to attend an event, how do we know when to say yes?

Hello to all! My name is Sherri and I am an alcoholic in the combined PI/CPC committee in District 71 (Kelowna, Lake Country, West Kelowna, and Peachland). Our committee is gearing up for a busy fall and we are excited about the items on our agenda; a presentation to our local Intergroup committee, a one hour presentation about our committee at our Round Up September 16th; hosting a workshop October 21st on speaking to the public in Non-AA settings; poster distribution to local businesses; and a visit from a Grapevine Director to discuss using The Grapevine in reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic in November.

The focus of our submission to the Inter-Com comes from a recent invitation to attend an event. What started as a seemingly straight forward request that our committee thought we would say yes to, has resulted in a decision to not attend. We feel the learning process we have undergone is worth sharing!

After the invitation was extended, our chair Christina M. suggested I contact the Area PI and CPC Chairs for their thoughts on AA being represented at the event. At first glance, and without the full details, it seemed to be a fit for AA to attend: professionals invited by a local Health agency to discuss solutions to the ongoing addictions crisis. I was able to speak with the CPC Chair Steve C who suggested that more information should be obtained from the organizer: i.e. who is actually organizing the event, what is their mission statement and purpose, is the event open to the public, and which professionals had been invited? These questions, and the answers to the questions, brought to light some previously-not- super-clear-to-me determining factors regarding things to consider when AA is invited to an event. In this case:

1. This event is the first one of a local chapter of a national movement. The purpose of the public event and group, (as confirmed on the group's web site and discussion with the organizer) was to raise public awareness of the losses faced by the families of those persons who have passed as the result of addiction, seek better funding from Government to address the current crisis, change the stigma associated with addiction, etc.
2. If we said yes to this one, we may be involving AA in a public controversy and bring about further controversy because we have said no to other invitations of a similar nature.
3. The inviting group in this instance is 'all about harm reduction', not abstinence, thus the concern about us being involved with a group whose ideas on treatment is not consistent with our experience, solution and program.
4. Their focus is on drug addiction issues not alcoholism.

5. As AA has no opinion on outside issues (i.e. their event, their purpose)– we simply and rightfully needed to assess how our AA traditions (4,6,10,11,12) could and should be applied before deciding what to do. Regardless of how we may personally feel about the inviting organization, when making a decision to represent AA there or not we should gather as much information as possible, objectively look at the situation and place the AA principals as suggested by the AA Traditions ahead of our personal feelings and act on what we feel is best for AA.

Our committee thanks Steve for his patient and respectful guidance, and taking the time to clarify our questions and consult with others on the Area 79 GSC. We as a committee wish not to blunder and err, and it is a huge comfort to know we can reach out and ask for help, which was freely given. We also thank Rio for urging us in February to, “discuss as a committee who we mix socks with.”

To me, this process underscores AA at its finest – one alcoholic helping another that we may continue to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and stay focused on our Primary Purpose. Thank you for letting us be of service.

(Editor's note: thank you Sherri and your committee for taking the time to fully consider this invitation and for the wonderful traditions discussions that we had during the process.

Further, Sherri and her committee have developed an excellent tear away poster with information on AA and with the local contact phone number on tear away tabs. The poster is available from Sherri, as well as the Area PI and CPC Chairs, in “Word” format as an example of something that could be edited and distributed in your District.)

[Getting Started in PI and CPC](#)

The subject of getting started with PI and CPC service work has been a regular feature in The Inter-Com. The current issue of the Inter-Com as well as the archived

editions have been made available on the Public side of the Area web site. Many thanks to our Web Team for their work on this project.

Our PI and CPC workbooks and kits cover this topic in some detail as well and I would encourage all committees to become familiar with that literature. In addition, our Guidelines on PI, CPC and other topics are important to the understanding of this service work.

Some suggestions for starting a new District PI and or CPC individual or joint committees, after obtaining the full support of the District, would be:

- Set up a regular monthly meeting time and location.
- Strongly suggest that all District Groups send reps that have the ability to commit to this work. (the workbook suggests 2 years of sobriety)
- See that the District is prepared to financially support the Committee for items like; meeting venue rent, literature for committee use and distribution, etc. One of our Districts has been providing \$100/mo. to the committee which seems to cover ongoing costs.
- As with other AA committees elect table officers including a Chair, Alt Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary etc.
- Be sure that reports are provided to the District regarding the ongoing activities of the Committee as these are District Committees.
- Make a review of the literature a regular part of the Committee meeting so that eventually all members will become familiar with it. (our Guidelines have lists of relevant material)
- Chose projects and goals for the Committee. (see a sample list below and suggestions from the literature including the task list)
- Have fun with this important service work and enjoy your time with your fellows.

Steve C, CPC Chair, Area 79

Suggested P.I. Committee Goals

- Be sure every public library has at least one Conference approved book(eg; the Big Book)

- Place a literature rack in every high school, college, police station, library, and hospital
- Send a letter to the high schools, offering A.A. literature and/or a presentation on AA.
- Put meeting schedules behind the front desks at every hotel, motel and bed and breakfast.

taken with permission from PI Workbook

Suggested C.P.C. Committee Goals

- Contact professionals and offer to meet with them in their office to share information.
- Invite professionals and professional students to attend an open meeting presentation on AA.
- Utilize the “About AA” newsletter for professionals (past issues can be found on www.aa.org)

taken with permission from CPC Workbook

How To Make Submissions 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.

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 The Inter-Com successful.

Disclaimer: Articles are not intended to be statements of AA policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either AA or BC/Yukon Area