

# The Inter-Com

BC/Yukon Area 79 • Public Information • Cooperation with the Professional Community

Edition 2—August 2014

1. This newsletter is for the exclusive use of A.A. members who wish to exchange information about PI and CPC work, so please share it only among our membership and refrain from using contact information for expressing opinions on outside issues.
2. The Inter-Com is our newsletter, by us and for us. When you are interested in sharing your experience, strength, and hope—and new ways to reach the public and cooperate with the professional community in your district—please send me a couple of paragraphs (short summary) or more, and it will be included in our next edition.
3. If you have a particular question or topic you would like to ask of others working in PI/CPC work, feel free to send it to the Editor and it will be published in a future newsletter to be answered by others with experience, strength, and hope in that area.
4. Please identify your contribution to the Inter-Com with District number, and a brief review of where your district is within British Columbia / Yukon, and PI, CPC, or PI/CPC.
5. We ask that you identify yourself by first name and last initial only, in keeping with our tradition of anonymity.
6. Your suggestions / comments / input are not only needed but are greatly appreciated and will make our exchange successful.

## **Public Information Committee (P.I.)**

Can you believe how the time has just flown by? It seems like yesterday that I received the phone call from our Area Chair, with the appointment to this position. I feel that I have only scratched the surface of this position, but also feel that I have a grasp of the position. I have been told by my service sponsor, that this is a sure sign that it is time to rotate. That it is best that I not become an “expert”.

One of the things that I have learned during this rotation, is that there is a lot of concern about anonymity on social media. I have heard from members, asking about this, and also we have seen a new service piece created by the General Service Office, directed at this important topic. I have requested that this be added to our website [www.bcyukonaa.org](http://www.bcyukonaa.org)

We created this newsletter, for you, the district Public Information, and Cooperation with the Professional Communities Chairs. You will find some stories of successes, and also challenges. If you have thoughts on these, please, email us to pass on your thoughts to those who are challenged with their service work.

While carrying out this vital work, we must always keep in mind our traditions of anonymity. We must not let our ego get in the way of the good work we are doing.

I always welcome calls and emails with ideas and or questions. Please don't hesitate to phone or email me. Copies of the P.I. Workbook, and the P.I. Guidelines, as well as other P.I. service materials can be downloaded in .pdf format from [www.bcyukonaa.org](http://www.bcyukonaa.org), click on the Area 79 tab, then Standing Committees, and then Public Information.

Larry B.

Public Information Chair

Panel 63, Area 79 BC/Yukon

Email: [publicinformation@bcyukonaa.org](mailto:publicinformation@bcyukonaa.org)

## **Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC)**

Hello, everyone, and welcome to the second issue of the Area 79 P.I./CPC newsletter.

It's hard to believe that we're only two months away from elections for the Panel 65 General Service Committee of Area 79. As has been said by those who came before me, I'm just beginning to feel I'm getting a handle on my job and now it's time to rotate on. It's going to be hard to let go, but rotation is certainly one of the practices that keep A.A. strong and vibrant. I know that I, for one, would hold onto a beloved position till I fell over, and I'd be doing no one any good once I got comfortable (read complacent), so I'll just move on over and welcome the new blood that will be gracing our committee.

It has been a privilege to work with the five DCMs assigned to Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) for Panel 63, as well as the GSRs and visitors who showed such care in our discussions at each quarterly and assembly. We've accomplished some tangible goals, but equally importantly, I think some of our members have gained a new interest in CPC work, which will benefit their communities and districts.

I really do encourage you to share your successes as well as challenges in this newsletter. If you've held a CPC event for professionals or a workshop for members, we'd all benefit from hearing what went right and/or wrong. Please don't think that there wasn't anything special about your event — there was!

And, as CPC chair for Area 79, I'd love to hear from you with any questions or concerns regarding Cooperation with the Professional Community. I can be reached at [cpc@bcyukonaa.org](mailto:cpc@bcyukonaa.org)

Yours in love and service,  
Lori W.,  
Panel 63, Area 79,  
Cooperation with the Professional Community  
Committee Chair

Hi Larry,

To be honest we are having a very difficult time with trying to encourage members to attend our public information or cooperation with the professional committee meetings. Quite often it is just myself attending these meetings which makes the service work discouraging. Finding volunteers for speaking is not as, but also difficult.

Do you have any suggestions or are there things other committees have done to boost enthusiasm about this branch of service work?

Thanks for your efforts,

Dominic  
Victoria Intergroup

I Dear friends,

For over a decade there has been very little Public Information activity in our area. Earlier this year we formed our PI committee. By following the suggested P.I. Committee Goals from the Public Information Workbook under the guidance and direction of our Area 79 P.I. Chair Larry B. and GSO P.I. Chair Jim M. plus observing and working with other successful districts we have managed to reach some major accomplishments in a short period.

First we listed and set up a distribution network and started getting pamphlets and information to schools, hospitals, medical offices, youth centres, senior homes coffee shops, community bulletin boards and other locations. We have been fortunate working with such outlets as the coffee news, our community TV station and radio station organizing and running public service announcements.

We have been working with some of our East Indian members to produce a Public Service Announcement in Punjabi and Hindi to be broadcast on the many radio stations in the Vancouver area reaching those still suffering alcoholics in their own language. This is a first for A.A.

A.A. has given us the tools from the experience of those who have gone before us and with the present leadership at Area and GSO making our task easier. Thank you.

In love of service,

Jim R  
P.I. Co-Chair  
District 39  
Abbotsford

**Area 79 – British Columbia & Yukon**  
District's 5 & 7 – CPC for Nanaimo, B.C.

This is a new Committee which began in 2013 and has made some great strides. We have a regular CPC meeting once a month where we have a mock CPC Presentation and critique it for the benefit of all to learn. A part of our presentation is to let a group know about the many ways that A.A. is able to connect up with alcoholics and members of A.A. To this end we mention Area 79's **Remote Communities Committee** and the many tools that they have at their disposal. We also review three pamphlets and a new Concept every month. There is an average of 4 – 6 people at each meeting. We have put together *CPC Guidelines* that help us know what our responsibilities are.

Nanaimo and area has a population base of about 100,000 people with over 45 A.A. groups in these two Districts. For example, we have 3 groups that meet 6 days a week, at 7:00 am – 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. So although we are very active with a lot of groups, our Central Office receives on average, five 12 Step calls a month. This suggests that CPC and PI have some work to do in our Community.

We have done a Presentation for a **Clerical** group of 20 people. We were unsuccessful in breaking into our local **Responsible Driver Program** because of Privacy laws and considerations. Because of our connection, A.A. in Vancouver was contacted by the Stroh Health Care – Head Office to give a CPC Presentation. Stroh Health Care is responsible to the British Columbia Government for Court ordered **RDP** and **Anger Management** courses.

We are just beginning to make inroads into our local **Vancouver Island University** with presentations to 2 – **Social Work** classes, 1 – **Nursing** Class and 1 **Dental Hygienist** Class. There are students from throughout B.C. and also an International component to these classes (however small).

We have prepared a *CPC Presentation Sheet* which we fill in to detail the particulars of who we are presenting to and then we make notes about questions and comments for a Report Back to the CPC Committee. We also have a sheet that we prepared for the Students to fill in if they would like to subscribe to About A.A. - require more Literature or go to an Open A.A. meeting.

At each Presentation, we hand out a *About A.A. Professional subscription – Open meeting questionnaire* which has generated 36 subscrip-

tions to **About A.A.** and 45 people interested in going to an **Open A.A. meeting**. Taking students to an Open A.A. meeting is proving to be a challenge because of their exams, papers being due, along with some who are also working. They are very busy people!

We also produced a *Best Practices* to help prepare our CPC Committee who are taking these Professionals to an Open meeting. In this, we suggest they meet early to discuss more of the principles of A.A. before the meeting. To not put their hand up as a new person and to let the Chair know what is taking place so that they are not asked to speak. We discuss the value of our 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and how the visitor is asked to not put money in the pot because of A.A.'s Tradition of self support.

We are having a display table at our local **Law Day** this Saturday where we are anticipating 200 – 250 people to attend. We will have a Display Rack and we will be handing out local meeting schedules – (F-2) Information on A.A. and a Business Card with our local Central Office phone number. We are also planning to put on a presentation to our local **Family and Criminal Bar Association** sometime in May.

CPC is now listed on our local Nanaimo Intergroup website under “Services” and “Information for Professionals” where Professional's can learn about our local CPC Committee work and connect to the G.S.O. website for more information, which includes streaming our Video presentations.

We prepared about 30 envelopes labelled **Adopt a Doctor** and **Adopt a Professional** which were handed out at the two District meetings as well as our CPC meeting. We are going to discuss how best to get more of these out there at our next CPC meeting.

There was one group in the District that was concerned about Attraction versus Promotion in our CPC work. As luck would have it, one of their old time group members, who has participated in our CPC Committee, was able to give them first hand information on our purpose and goals and that satisfied them.

I will add that I am very much enjoying this adventure in service and continue to learn more about the program that saved my life, everyday.

Your humble servant,

**Clifford T.**

**CPC Chair District 5 & 7 Nanaimo, B.C.**

PS These files may be of interest to other CPC Committees as a reference or tool:

- CPC Guidelines for Nanaimo

- CPC Presentation Sheet – Report Back

- About A.A. - Professional subscription – Open meeting questionnaire

- About A.A. - Student subscription – Open meeting questionnaire

- CPC Best Practices for taking a Professional to an Open meeting

- CPC Adopt a Doctor – Adopt a Professional letter and contents



**A Message from the Editors of this newsletter:**

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of our newsletter! And thank you to those who are reading this edition. Please share this with your PI and CPC Committees. This is a forum for sharing. We are here to help facilitate this sharing, and help others in the same positions as you, to learn and grow. Together, we can reach the alcoholics who are still out there, as well as the professionals who come into contact with them in their daily work. The goal for this newsletter is that eventually we can make this a quarterly publication. We can only do this with your help and guidance.

Yours in Love, Unity and Service

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