

The Inter-Com—April 2016

Public Information (PI)

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)

PANEL 65

APRIL 2016 ISSUE

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- What is Inter-Com?
- Comments from your Area 79 PI and CPC Chairpersons
- What is PI and CPC work?
- Experience, strength and hope from Districts 36 and District 62
- How to Submit a Story
- An idea for PI and CPC work
- Quote from the pamphlet Understanding Anonymity

What is The 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 - January, April, July and October.

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.

This issue focuses on two Districts (36 & 62) with non-existent and/or struggling PI and/or CPC Committees. The two DCMs share their experience, strength and hope on how each took the initiative to start or revitalize their PI and/or CPC Committees within their Districts. From that, the two PI and/or CPC Committee Chairpersons share their beginnings of their journey and goals towards growth.

Thank you Sheryl, Dave, Flora and Kent for your contributions!

Not sure what you could submit? Please contact us for more information.

In Gratitude,

*Cyndi V; Public Information Committee Chair
Panel 65, Area 79 BC/Yukon
Email: publicinformation@bc yukonaa.org*

*Jeff C; Cooperation with the Professional
Community Committee Chair
Panel 65, Area 79 BC/Yukon*

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

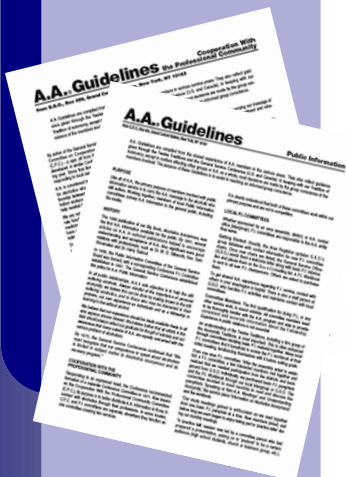
Like all of AA the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Responding to an expressed need, the Conference recommended formation of a separate Conference Committee in 1971. Now known as

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC),

Its purpose is to better distribute A.A. information to those in contact with alcoholics through their professions. In some locales, C.P.C. and P.I. committees are separate; elsewhere they function as one committee cover two services.

It is clearly understood that both of these committees work within our primary purpose and are not in competition



PLANTING SEEDS

Two Districts sharing their growth with their PI and/or CPC Committees

Hello I am Sheryl and I am the DCM for District 36 Richmond. Richmond has 11 public and 2 private high schools and we feel we have the man power to get the message of Alcoholics Anonymous out the numerous teenagers within Richmond. We as a district decided to invite Cyndi to facilitate a district workshop on Speaking in Schools. We had a small turn out but the few who attend were very excited about the possibility of Richmond forming a Public Information Committee. I waited a couple months then I met with all the members from the workshop and asked if they still wanted to pursue this. They agreed to continue moving forward with

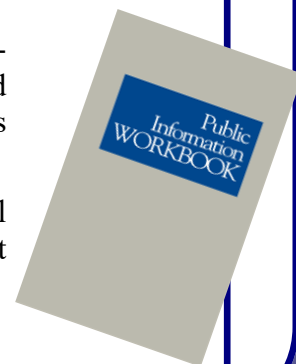
starting a PI Committee in District 36. I went back to the district and asked if they would support a PI Committee and they voted yes unanimously. We chose a district liaison that would attend their monthly meeting and report back to district. Kent stepped forward as committee chair and he has been doing an amazing job. Like I, Kent believes it's better to be slow and informed than quick and incorrect. Page 1 of the Public Information workbook is a fantastic place to start! As DCM all I did was see a need for our district, reach out and ask for help, find interested individuals and trust that God has a plan. So far the plan has been working!

Richmond district 36 has a brand new public information committee! We have met 4 or 5 times and hold our meetings on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 pm at Park House. We are currently studying the Public Information Workbook together and will study the anonymity brochure next. We, as a committee, recognize the need for a solid foundation and education in our principles before we carry our message to the public.

Our goal is to be able to present the message of AA to interested outside organizations. Our plan is to start with schools and educational organizations, then branch out into other areas as we gain experience.

We are actively recruiting committee members, so please feel free to contact us or attend a meeting to meet us and see what we're doing!

- Kent; PI Committee Chairperson; District 36



Good Day, my name is Dave and I am an alcoholic and also blessed with being the DCM for District 62. As our district had no CPC/PI committee, I held a orientation (don't say workshop) in January to give an overview on CPC/PI. The idea was attraction, not promotion. If people think a workshop is a big sales pitch or guilt trip into service, then turnout is low. But if it is a no obligation, no strings attached information session (with donuts), then it can get a better turnout. I viewed it as just planting seeds to see if anything happened. There was no pressure on me as it was their group conscience

The topics were: What is PI? What is CPC? Is there any opportunities in our district? At the end of the 90 minutes then I asked the question, is there enough interest to have another meeting (soon) to see if members want to form a committee. There was. So before our second meeting there was a very enthusiastic person named Flora who had not chaired an A.A. committee before, but was willing if other people stepped forward to help. As DCM I

support anyone involved in service, including chairs and GSRs, to help support them and be there when they need help.

In the follow-up meeting the first part asked the question what should the committee do and the group conscience was literature delivery, schools, seniors and detox. The second part of the meeting I listed possible positions (I wrote draft CPC/PI committee description and short job descriptions of each possible position ahead of time) and they elected a chair, co-chair (who share responsibilities), literature, school, and seniors coordinator and several "members at large" who would be flexible to help the coordinators.

Once the committee was formed the chair, co-chair and I worked on agendas for the meetings to get it going and I stepped back to let them, and the group conscience take over. I attend the meetings as a background person to answer any questions, especially if the committee would need to bring requests to the District for their input.

My name is Flora K. and I am a grateful alcoholic and chair of the new District 62 CPC/PI committee. Late last year, Dave F., DCM for District 62, gave me the names of members who participated in a school program workshop in May. I sent an email out to see who was still interested. We then began recruiting members by talking to individuals and making announcements in meetings. We announced a CPC/PI meeting was scheduled and invited members to join us. We informed members that we had no specific committee in mind and the idea was to build it together.

From there our district's members welcomed the opportunity. We had about 15 members at the first meeting. Dave F. and Mark H., our PI chair for several years, encourages and guides the group. I was concerned about chairing at this level of service, but members committed to building a strong committee. Within a couple meetings, Jennie I. was voted in for co-chair and four members took on positions of coordinators for a school program, seniors in sobriety, literature and detox meeting. We then set out to get an administrator, Michelle C. We also have 8 members at large. We continue to announce our meetings at AA meetings, it is a great service opportunity.

As I prepared for my 2nd district report, it was suggested by our district literature chair, Jim T., to ask district for a sum of money to put literature in the local libraries. I drafted a detailed proposal including literature needed for seniors' homes, our pilot school and extras to keep on hand for events. We were granted the funding and are awaiting our order. We will do our best to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in District 62.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTER-COM

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
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

Your suggestions/comments/input are not only needed but are also greatly appreciated.

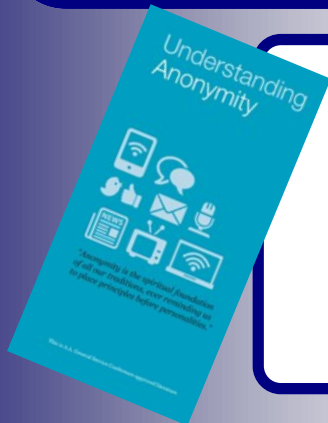
Please have your submissions for July 2016 Inter-Com in by June 15, 2016

A possible tool to use in your PI/CPC Committee:



The use of a M-54 pocket folder for pamphlets is a great way to carry the message. Some Districts fill the folder with pamphlets directed at a target group (eg; doctor, clergy). Each piece of literature has their District's contact information by using a stamp and/or labels; created uniquely for their District. Reaching out to the AA members within their Districts via the GSRs and/or their local newsletters, the PI/CPC Committees inform the members that they can get a package to take to their doctor and/or clergy or ... ?

What a great way to get the entire District involved in service by carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic through professionals in the community! It is also a fantastic combination of PI work and CPC work!



What is the purpose of anonymity in Alcoholics Anonymous?
Why is it often referred to as the greatest single protection the Fellowship has to assure its continued existence and growth?

Want answers to these questions? Read the pamphlet Understanding Anonymity.

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