

THE INTER-COM

Area 79 Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional
Community Quarterly Newsletter for October 2019

What's in this issue:

Sharing from our
Area 79 Public
Information
Committees:

District 36/Richmond

District 71/Kelowna

District 42/Surrey

Why Anonymous?

International A.A.
Convention

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What is the Inter-Com?

Inter-Com is our newsletter, by us, for us. The newsletter is for the exclusive use of A.A. members who wish to exchange information about Public Information (P.I.) 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 P.I. and CPC Committees, to share experience, strength and hope — new ways to reach the public and cooperate with the professional community — how and what you're doing in your district.

Thank You!

Panel 69 P.I. & CPC DCMs

P.I. Committee Districts: 8 28 43 51 62

CPC Committee Districts: 4 30 38 52 59

Thank You to Districts 36, 71 and 42 for
your submissions to this issue!
~We would love to hear from YOU~
PI/CPC Committee news, events and
shared experience are welcomed and
appreciated!

-District 36/Richmond-
A very active PI Committee!

District 36 Richmond has a very active P.I. Committee. We are constantly growing our member participation. We offer a **Speaking in School orientation** leading up to a school presentation which allows new members to see what a presentation will look like and also allows a refresher for members who have been in our schools before. In addition to the school presentations, we are **learning together by studying and investigating other P.I initiatives.**

-District 71/Kelowna-
"Alcoholics Anonymous-it works. Look us up."

My name is Sherri and I am an alcoholic, also chair of P.I. in District 71

Our committee has been working on getting our **audio PSAs on the radio airwaves** in the last few months. We meet once a month as a committee and started this journey with Dana our Area chair taking us through the process of approaching radio stations to play our PSAs. Using the compiled information shared by Dana (thank you Dana!) we got to work. Each committee member listened to each audio public service announcement on the aa.org website and made a shortlist of our top 3 or 4 favourites. One committee member did the research on all the local stations and their demographic audience. When we met again, we matched our favourite PSA to each station – it was fun to do as a committee and we reached a consensus very quickly. We all felt the PSAs are really good and carry an easy-to-hear-message of hope! By email we reached out to Racy and her staff at GSO at the P.I. desk to request the ready-to-play MP3 formats of the PSAs to be emailed to us. Next, the contact for each station was determined and a phone call was made by me, as chair of the committee, to introduce A.A. and request play time for the PSAs. **We received a variety of responses** – yes, our request would be entertained; no there is no play time available; and even a no – as a station there are no free play spots, but if you have a budget, we can give you the not-for-profit rates. The issue with the last response is that radio stations have to play PSAs. A follow-up phone call to the station manager rectified the response and **our PSAs are being played by one station in Kelowna!** A committee member has volunteered to do follow-up calls to continue to ask for our spots to be played and are hopeful the more stations will follow suit. The final sentence in many of the PSAs is, "Alcoholics Anonymous – it works. Look us up." As a committee we liked this a lot and updated our online classified ad listing with the same wording to continue to repeat the message. We consider the effort a success and know that even if it brings 1 newcomer to the rooms, it's a win.

Yours in service, Sherri K., District 71

From your friendly District 42/Surrey

Public Information Committee

Hello everyone in Area 79, Thank you for taking the time to read our story!

As committee chair, I started off this rotation as a P.I. rep for my home group. (I wanted to be Intergroup rep, but God has a sense of humour and a different plan for me evidently) After I sat in on two meetings, the outgoing chair retired, and the committee named me chair. I had absolutely no idea what I was doing, but I've been shown and told to always start with the literature. So, we spent a good bit of our monthly meetings doing just that.

In District 42, Public Information has had a difficult time getting started.

We hadn't been in a school in over 4 years as that relationship was especially damaged by well-meaning members that focused on their story more than what A.A. does and does not do. One of the first decisions that the committee made, and it has since been proven to be the best single thing we have done, was that we agreed to strike a "Speaking-in Schools" subcommittee. By taking this vitally important part of the P.I. committee's mandate and setting it aside into its own committee, it not only gave the schools the dedicated attention they deserved, it also allowed the parent committee the ability to focus on all the other responsibilities that are suggested by the Public Information workbook and guidelines.



The "public" part of Public Information is a giant umbrella with many needs to be addressed and reached. Some of the things that we have done in a little over a year have been:

- We have established a senior care home liaison who has established and maintained relationships with seniors' centres in our district that we are providing literature to and for whom we are hoping to set up a detox-panel style meeting soon.
- We have managed to get Big Books, 12x12s and assorted conference approved literature into every library in the Fraser Valley. Additionally, we have been given 3 slots for pamphlets and meeting lists at the front door of the Surrey Central library which is one of the busiest in the lower mainland.
- We have participated and had tables at events that were just for the fellowship, such as our service round-up that is called "Heart to Heart: For the Love of Service" and more public events such as helping the CPC committee with the Recovery Capitol Conference.
- We are in the process of reaching out to radio stations in the lower mainland to attempt to get some of A.A.'s public service announcements on the radio for the first time in years.

Most importantly, after 5 long years of absolutely no A.A. presence in the Surrey School District, we are in the final leg of the process and we should be doing our first presentations either in late 2019 or early 2020. We want to thank our Speaking in Schools chair Shannon H. for her tireless dedication and commitment.

For any committees that are just getting started, I would like to offer some suggestions if I may: meet regularly, announce your meeting every chance you get, ask for help, read the literature and connect. I have been invited to several business meetings to encourage home groups to elect a P.I. rep and it worked! I was helped greatly by both my local intergroup and by Area 79. I am here for anyone who would like to connect or for some encouragement. Remember that we are working to give a chance to someone we might never meet, someone who might not ever know our name, but long before we got here, someone else did the same for us.

What's NEW on www.bcyukonaa.org

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

International A.A. Conventions

Why Anonymous?
¿Por qué Anónimos?
Pourquoi l'anonymat ?



How To Make Submissions to the Inter-Com

We would love to hear from P.I. 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 P.I., CPC, or PI/CPC.

Remember that this current edition, as well as all archived editions, are now on the Public Side of our Area 79 Website under the NEWS tab for your reading pleasure.

The Twelfth Tradition

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Let us always remember that anonymity — not taking credit for our own or others' recovery— is humility at work.



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