

PRAASA 2019 PI Roundtable Friday night minutes.

Sent to:

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Public Information Chair (South): Joey B. pi-s@aa-oregon.org

Joey B, (Moderator) started us out about 10:10 pm with the Serenity Prayer, followed by introductions. We spent the next few minutes coming up with topics for discussion.

Topics:

1. What, if anything is being done regarding alcoholism, not just AA, in our public schools?
2. How do members or committees get into and facilitate activities in schools? What age is too young an audience, and who is the best resource to contact?
3. What are ideas or what are Areas doing for Public Information committees with small budgets and/or resources?
4. What does the Public Information role/chair/coordinator facilitate in regard to content on their respective Area, District or Intergroup websites?
5. How do we attract or interact with members or the public on the internet while protecting anonymity?

Topic 1 - What, if anything is being done regarding alcoholism, not just AA, in our public schools?

Maybe we can develop some literature about alcoholism that describes what alcoholism is for this demographic. There are some Health classes in schools that delve into it at a high level, one class talked about mood altering things. It does not seem consistent across the areas of the roundtable members.

One committee takes panels not schools and has consistent schedules with high schools I in their area. They share about what it was like, what AA is, and what it has done for them and their family.

Suggestion to place pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers" (F-9) on desks for students to pick up if they so choose.

One area is looking to find a way to facilitate an AA meeting in a high school, and a process to deal any legal or school rules that may need addressed.

Topic 2 - How do members or committees get into and facilitate activities in schools? What age is too young an audience, and who is the best resource to contact?

An area is contacting schools, usually vice-principals with letters of recommendation from other schools where they have seen the value of the PI presentations. They utilize the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings" (P-40) and "Understanding Anonymity" (P-47) to educate the presenters/speakers and try to use a "young" AA speaker to help the audience relate.

It was suggested to do workshops to train AA members to carry the PI message, and some area are doing so.

There was more discussion on who to contact at the schools or maybe the school districts to see if the districts have a process to facilitate entry into the schools for presentations.

If Joey can find some of the letters of recommendation on their website, he will forward them on.

Another suggestion was to send or email letters similar to the examples found in the PI Workbook, which can be found on aa.org. (https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees)

Try to find someone you know that may work in a school to see if they can help you get a "foot in the door". A Teacher, school nurse, counselor, support staff, etc. may be able to help.

Topic 3 - What are ideas or what are Areas doing for Public Information committees with small budgets and/or resources?

A PI Committee went directly to Districts, Sub-Districts and Groups to let them all know the needs for their committee to do the work. Some places can earmark funds to the committees for their work. They always send a thank-you letter for the contribution.

Ask for free pamphlets from GSO to distribute. Any pamphlet that starts with F-XX is a free one. Also place links to the GSO pamphlets for PI work on your respective websites to easily accessed. The same can be done with PSA's (aa.org) and also to the you-tube channel

(<https://www.youtube.com/c/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc>).

One location started a new PI committee by passing a special basket at the district meeting to get the funds to get going, then that trickled down to some groups doing it as well.

Other ideas: Get free meeting lists and distribute and make sure your library has a Big Book. It is suggested that it may be the most stolen book from public libraries. Let local resources know about the Meeting List App on phones for anyone to find a AA meeting if there area is listed, and if it's not, contact the keeper of the meeting list and see if they can get the information on the App. Crossing a bit into CPC as they often overlap, it was suggested to let you health care professional know about AA and if you are comfortable, break your anonymity to them and ask if can provide literature for them or for their patients.

Topic 4 - What does the Public Information role/chair/coordinator facilitate in regard to content on their respective Area, District or Intergroup websites?

The Intergroup maintained is some areas and they just provide content to them, but no say on any other area of the site. Some areas use a web committee, or a Information Systems group to maintain, but usually has some input from the PI committee, or PI Chair.

Topic 5 - How do we attract or interact with members or the public on the internet while protecting anonymity?

One place does a meeting podcast "Interview with an alcoholic" that is anonymous.

Some members interact in "private" Facebook groups, that they believe to be only for members of AA.

Looking to GSO to take the lead on Facebook "page" then try to duplicate for for District or Intergroup PICPC. Waiting to see how the LinkedIn account with GSO goes.

Use the AA Grapevine YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI9uFLJ_aXT3-At0PIPWUQ)

Participate and let people know about AA online meetings, as they are anonymity protected and may offer a way to a newcomer who is reluctant to go to a regular meeting. (<http://aa-intergroup.org/>)

About 11:15 we closed for the evening.

Thank you for letting me be of service! I hope you all had a great spiritual experience at this PRAASA. I did!

In Love and Service,
Larry S.
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