

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Speaking at Non-AA Meetings

Bill C

CPC Chair 2019-2021

Eastern Ontario International

Outline – Speaking at Non-AA Meetings

- CPC and Non-AA Meetings
- Considerations
- Anonymity
- The Audience and Organization
- What to talk about
- Summary

CPC and Professional Communities

...those who deal with problem drinkers in the course of their work



Considerations

- Should I or Shouldn't I?
- What to Say?
- How to say it?

Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings



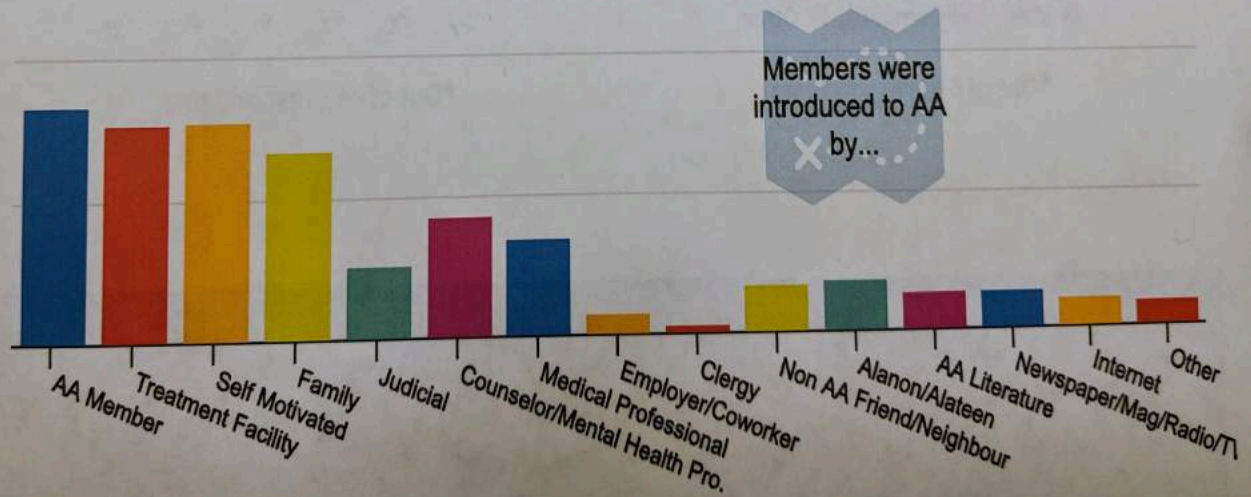
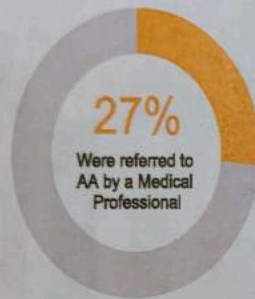
Should I or Shouldn't I

- Ultimately the “Group” Conscious
- Entirely in keeping with the A.A. Traditions
- Focus is on A.A. and our recovery program
- Many consider this type of speaking to be one of the cornerstones of a constructive A.A. public/professional information program
- Willingness to be “Friendly with our Friends”
- Opportunity to inform the public and professional organizations about the role of A.A. in the community
- Let's us carry the message of our recovery to alcoholics through a third person
- Remember a large proportion of today's newcomers are making their first approach to A.A. at the suggestion of a non-alcoholic (Treatment, MD's Court etc)

Area 83

Role of Medical Professionals & Community

Respondents said...



Points to Remember

- We speak for ourselves, not AA as a whole
- Important that the audience is aware our Traditions – especially as they relate to Anonymity – and respects them
- If there is publicity, do not link AA with other activities or agencies
- If you have questions as to whether or not to participate, don't hesitate to consult your Group, District, Inter Group, Area as appropriate

Understanding Anonymity



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

Anonymity: Two Levels

Tradition 11

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A. A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

Tradition 12

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Anonymity: Two Levels

- At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers
- At the public level of press, radio, TV, films and other media technologies such as the Internet, anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their A.A. affiliation to achieve recognition, power, or personal gain

What do I say? How do I say it?

- Most professional groups who invite an AA speaker want to know about AA, not so much about the speaker
- Suggestions to focus on:
 - What AA is
 - What AA does
 - What the structure of AA is in the community – types of meetings, times etc.
 - How they can interact or cooperate with AA in the area
 - It is ok to illustrate points with your story
- How you say it depends on your style and comfort at presenting – we are not professionals here, just AA's letting others know about AA

The Audience and Organization

- The make-up of the audience will shape the topics that you choose to deliver the message
- Similarly, if the audience members are part of an organization, the topics you choose should be appropriate. For example, you might want to stress certain points for an audience of MD's versus Clergy versus Law Enforcement
- There are many Pamphlets and online resources directed at specialized professions which can be made available at the meeting – or as a follow-up

What to Talk About?

- GSO has compiled a list of 20 questions that have been asked most often by non-AA audiences and are set up a FAQ
- A past Delegate has shared a PowerPoint presentation with us for speaking at non-AA meetings
- The PowerPoint resources that are available from GSO for speaking at non-AA meetings are also available on our website

Summary

- Many newcomers arrive at AA from some sort of professional referral
- Speaking at non-AA meetings is a way to provide professionals with information about AA in the community and make available resources
- Lots of resources to shape the message for the appropriate audience
- Challenge is to reach out to this community and let them know about AA and that is in the community for their clients
- Important to keep our Traditions, especially Traditions 11 and 12 as they relate to Anonymity

Resource Material

Getting Started in C.P.C A Few Suggestions

- Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings
- How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals
- A Member's- Eye View of A.A
- A.A. Fact File



C.P.C. Kit and Workbook are very useful!

CONTENTS OF C.P.C. KIT

List of Kit Contents	(F-66)
A.A. Fact File	(M-24)
CPC Power Point Presentation*	(F-175)
C.F.C. DVD*	(DV-13)
For volunteers staffing an A.A. exhibit (Flyer)*	
WORKBOOK: CPC Workbook	(M-411)
A.A. GUIDELINES:	
Serving Alcoholics With Special Needs	(MG-16)
Cooperation with the Professional Community	(MG-11)
Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs	(MG-5)
For A.A. Members Employed in the Alcoholism Field	(MG-10)
Relationship Between A.A. & Al-Anon	(MG-8)
Public Information	(MG-7)
SERVICE MATERIAL:	
A.A. Fact Sheet	(SMF-94)
Information on Alcoholics Anonymous	(F-2)
Working with Students Attending Professional Schools*	(F-106)
Alcoholics Anonymous as a Resource For Drug & Alcohol Court Professionals*(F-177)	
Suggestions for Using the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña as a Tool in Cooperation with the Professional Community Service*	(F-190)
PUBLICATIONS:	
About A.A. Newsletter	(F-13)
Current Box 4-9-2	(F-36)
A.A. Grapevine Magazine	(F-41)
CATALOGS/ORDER FORMS:	
Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine material)	(F-10)
Special literature packages are for sale to CPC committees and contacts only. For information please contact cpo@aa.org .	
PAMPHLETS:	
About A.A. Card*	(F-23)
How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals	(F-29)
Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends	(F-34)
Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings	(F-40)
The Twelve Traditions Illustrated	(F-43)
Understanding Anonymity...	(F-47)
A Brief Guide to A.A.	(F-42)
A Member's Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous	(F-41)
A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional	(F-23)
A.A. in Correctional Facilities	(F-26)
A.A. Membership Survey	(F-48)
Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community	(F-31)
If You Are a Professional	(F-46)
Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?	(F-54)
Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous	(F-25)
Problems Other Than Alcohol	(F-35)
The A.A. Member - Medications & Other Drugs	(F-11)
Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.	(F-6)

Rev 03/12

F-66W

Cooperation With the Professional Community WORKBOOK

Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



There are Sample Letters to Professionals


- Physicians, Police, Clergy and Legal in the CPC workbook
- Specific to their line of work and how we can assist them when dealing with alcoholics
- Additional sample letters included




Pamphlets are written for Professionals




Additional On-line Resources

Search Our Site 

Home Information for Professionals...






Information For Professionals


Professionals who work with alcoholics share a common purpose with Alcoholics Anonymous: to help the alcoholic stop drinking and lead a healthy, productive life. We can serve as a source of personal experience with alcoholism as an ongoing support system for recovering alcoholics.


RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS

Alcoholics Anonymous has many A.A. members and service committees who are available to provide professionals with information about Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. has a long history of cooperating but not affiliating with outside organizations and being available to provide A.A. meetings or information about A.A. upon request. A.A. communicates with professionals such as: doctors or other health care professionals, members of the clergy, law enforcement or court officials, educators, social workers, alcoholism counselors, therapists, or others who deal with problem drinkers in the course of their work. To contact A.A., please [Click HERE](#).



Videos for Professionals

A.A. Video for Healthcare Profess 


 Alcoholics Anonymous - Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends


About A.A.

Newsletter for Professionals

To subscribe via email to *About A.A.*, [Click here](#).

CURRENT ISSUE:

About A.A. 

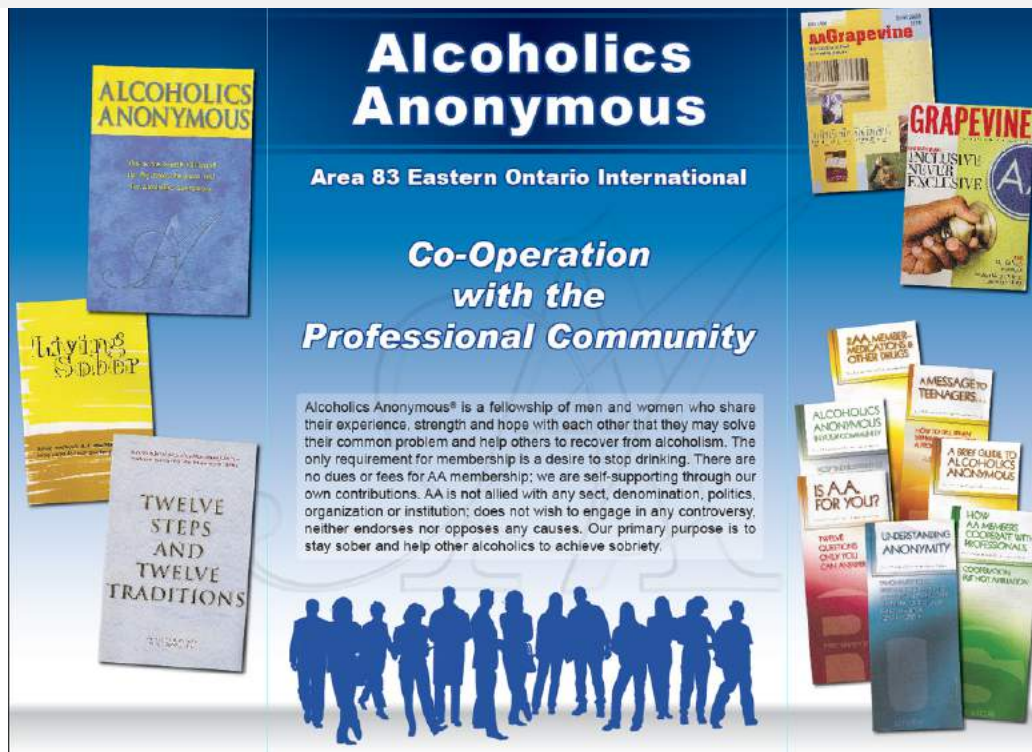


A.A. and the Older Alcoholic

Fall 2018 – A.A. and the Older Alcoholic

Search within About A.A. newsletters

CPC Display is Available



Alcoholics Anonymous
Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Some examples of C.P.C. In Action

- Pamphlets in Doctors' offices
- AA cards in holder
- Bring a Friend Night
- Presentations at Professional organizations
- Letters to Clergy, Police Associations
- Hospital Visits

How To Get Active in C.P.C.

- Talk to your Service Sponsor and G.S.R.
- Attend District meeting / C.P.C. Intergroup
- Offer to help at conferences, presentations
- Familiarize yourself with C.P.C. literature and “Speaking at Non-A.A. meetings”

