

# Public Information &

Cooperation with the Professional Community

**Workshop Featuring:** 

"Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings"



# Agenda

Understanding Anonymity Amanda R.

Speaking At Non-A.A. Meetings Tom D.

Information on Alcoholics Anonymous Olga R.

PI Workbook Gordon S.

CPC Workbook Olga R.

Mock Talk (Medical Professionals) Jose G.

Questions and Answers Panel

### **NETA 65 CPC Committee Contacts**

**NETA 65 PI Committee Contacts** 

Chair: Tom D <a href="mailto:CPC71@neta65.org">CPC71@neta65.org</a> Chair: Amanda R Pl71@neta65.org

Alt Chair: Olga R <u>altCPC71@neta65.org</u> Alt Chair: Gordon S <u>altPl71@neta65.orq</u>

# Understanding "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

### P-47 Understanding Anonymity

# **Understanding Anonymity**

### <u>Personal</u>

At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard often of special importance to newcomers.

### **Public**

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.

### **Digital Media**

When using digital media, A.A. members are responsible for their own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.

# A.A. Anonymity (Card)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

#### A.A. ANONYMITY

(Announcement for reading at meetings open to the public)

There may be some here who are not familiar with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes or in any published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on the Internet or other new media technologies.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

.....

Thus, we respectfully ask that A.A. Speakers and A.A. members not be photographed, videotaped, or identified by full name on audiotapes or in any published or broadcast reports of our meetings, including those reports on the internet or other new media technologies.

The assurance of anonymity is essential in our efforts to help other problem drinkers who may wish to share our recovery program with us. And our Tradition of anonymity reminds us that A.A. principles come before personalities.

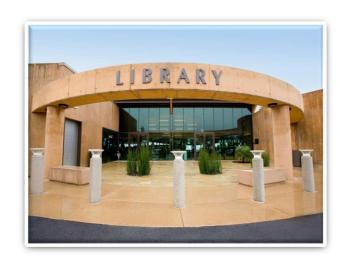
3M - 9/18 (GP)

P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings











P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# Should such talks be made?

<u>Yes!</u> It is entirely in keeping with A.A. Traditions for an A.A. member to speak at non-A.A. meetings about A.A. and our recovery program if a few simple precautions are observed.

<u>Why?</u> Provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate our willingness to be "friendly with our friends," to inform the public concerning the role of A.A. in the community, and above all, to carry the message of our recovery to alcoholics through a third person.

# Who is qualified?

An A.A. member who has been sober in A.A. for a sufficient length of time to discuss our recovery program - the Steps, Traditions, and service - intelligently should be capable of a good job.



P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# What to talk about?

The topics that you will select for discussion may also depend, to some degree, on the **particular audience** that you are addressing. For example, you may wish to lay more stress on certain points in talking to an audience of doctors or members of the clergy than you would to a group of high school students.

# "Should I tell my story?"

Those who have had experience in speaking to nonalcoholic audiences have learned that the average person wants to know what Alcoholics Anonymous is, what is does, and what he or she can do to cooperate, rather than hear the personal-history type of talk that a member might give at an A.A. meeting.

On the other hand, experienced speakers have found that it is helpful to relate incidents from their own drinking history.



P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# What precautions should A.A. members take when telling their personal recovery stories at Non-A.A. meetings?

- They mention the fact that they speak for themselves only, not A.A. as a whole.
- 2. If they are known in the community as members of A.A., their membership might be revealed by the press, even though the members may not have stated their full names. To prevent this, A.A. members clarify the A.A. Traditions of anonymity with the people arranging the meeting.
- 3. If there is publicity involved, caution is taken not to link the A.A. name with the activities of other agencies.
- 4. If A.A. members have any doubts about the wisdom of speaking at a specific non-A.A. group, they consult the local groups or central committee before accepting the invitation.



P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# What to talk about?

In talking to non-A.A. groups, A.A. members can draw upon a wealth of information from their own experience, what they learned from the experience of others, and various pamphlets and other literature available from the General Service Office.

### **Primary Sources:**

- "Understanding Anonymity" (P-47)
- ♦ "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" (F-2)
- ♦ "A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous" (P-42)
- ♦ "If You Are a Professional" (P-46)
- ♦ "How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professionals" (*P-29*)
- "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." (P-2)
- ♦ "A.A. in Your Community" (*P-31*)
- "A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous" (P-41)



P-40 Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings

# **Outline for a talk**

#### 1. Introduction

Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous Anonymity Statement

#### 2. A.A. Preamble

The A.A. Preamble is our mission statement, use it! Make your own synopsis of A.A.

### 3. Personal Recovery Story

Drinking pattern
Why you decided to seek help
What you found in A.A. that helped
What your life is like today

### 4. How We Can work Together or How Can You Seek Help

Why you decided to seek help
What can we do
What we can't do
How to contact A.A.

# <u>Information on Alcoholics Anonymous</u>

#### Information on Alcoholics Anonymous

For Anyone New Coming to A.A. For Anyone Referring People to A.A.

This information is both for people who may have a drinking problem and for those in contact with people who have, or are suspected of having, a problem. Most of the information is available in more detail in literature published by A.A. World Services, Inc. This sheet tells what to expect from Alcoholics Anonymous. It describes what A.A. is, what A.A. does, and what A.A. does not do.

#### What Is A.A.?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, multiracial, apolitical, and available almost everywhere. There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking problem.

#### Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other Than Alcohol

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Nonalcoholics may attend open A.A. meetings as observers, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings.

#### What Does A.A. Do?

- A.A. members share their experience with anyone seeking help with a drinking problem; they give person-to-person service or "sponsorship" to the alcoholic coming to A.A. from any source.
- 2. The A.A. program, set forth in our Twelve Steps, offers the alcoholic a way to develop a satisfying life without alcohol.
- 3. This program is discussed at A.A. group meetings.
  - a. Open speaker meetings open to alcoholics and nonalcoholics. (Attendance at an open A.A. meeting is the best way to learn what A.A. is, what it does, and what it does not do.) At speaker meetings, A.A. members "tell their stories." They describe their experiences with alcohol, how they came to A.A., and how their lives have changed as a result of Alcoholics Anonymous.
  - b. Open discussion meetings one member speaks briefly about his or her drinking experience, and then leads a discussion on A.A. recovery or any drinking-related problem anyone brings up. (Closed meetings are for A.A.s or anyone who may have a drinking problem.)
  - c. Closed discussion meetings conducted just as open discussions are, but for alcoholics or prospective A.A.s only.
  - d. Step meetings (usually closed) discussion of one of the Twelve Steps.
  - e. A.A. members also take meetings into correctional facilities and treatment settings
  - f. A.A. members may be asked to conduct the informational meetings about A.A. as a part of A.S.A.P. (Alcohol Safety Action Project) and D.W.I. (Driving While Intoxicated) programs. These meetings about A.A. are not regular A.A. group meetings.

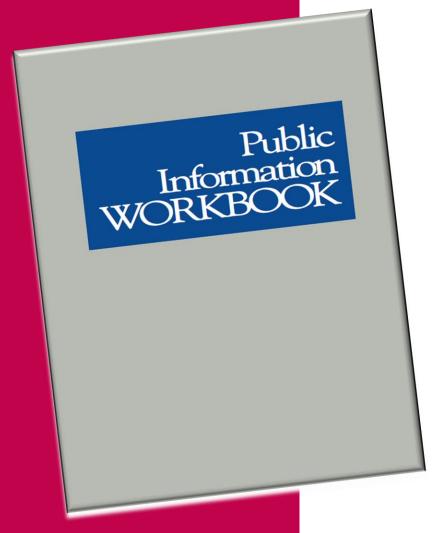
#### What A.A. Does Not Do

#### A.A. does not

- Furnish initial motivation for alcoholics to recover.
- 2. Solicit members

- What Is A.A.?
- Singleness of Purpose and Problems Other Than Alcohol
- What Does A.A. Do?
- Types of A.A. Group Meetings
- What A.A. Does Not Do?
- Members From Court Programs and Treatment Facilities
- Proof of Attendance at Meetings
- Literature

# F-2 Information on Alcoholics Anonymous



# **Public Information (PI)**

Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local Public Information committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media.

An understanding of the Twelve Traditions, including a firm grasp of the Anonymity Traditions, is most important. This is often enhanced through committees studying basic P.I. material together. Many local P.I. committees find it beneficial to review the P.I. workbook at their initial meeting, familiarizing themselves with it before setting goals.

- MG-7 A.A. Guidelines on PI

M-27i Public Information
Workbook



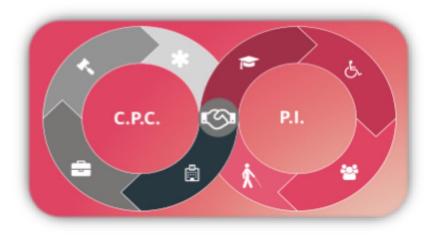
## **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)**

By action of the General Service Board, January 1970, the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.)—a spin off from the Public Information Committee—was developed...Since that time, A.A. members in local areas have been responding to local need by establishing C.P.C. committees.

A.A. is considered by many professionals to be a valuable resource for alcoholics who want help. When there is a good working relationship between A.A. members in the community and paid alcoholism workers, the sick alcoholic is the winner—he or she gets the help needed from both.

- MG-11 A.A. Guidelines on CPC

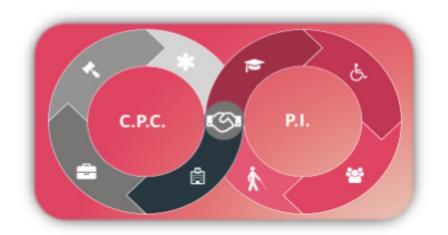
M-41i Cooperation with the Professional Community Workbook



# Mock Talk!

# Target Audience: Medical Students

**Q&A from "Medical Students"** 



# Questions & Answers

## **NETA 65 CPC Committee Contacts**

Chair: Tom D <a href="mailto:CPC71@neta65.org">CPC71@neta65.org</a>

Alt Chair: Olga R altCPC71@neta65.org

# **NETA 65 PI Committee Contacts**

Chair: Amanda R Pl71@neta65.org

Alt Chair: Gordon S altPl71@neta65.org





# THANK YOU!

**NETA 65 CPC Committee Contacts** 

Chair: Tom D <a href="mailto:CPC71@neta65.org">CPC71@neta65.org</a>

Alt Chair: Olga R altCPC71@neta65.org

**NETA 65 PI Committee Contacts** 

Chair: Amanda R Pl71@neta65.org

Alt Chair: Gordon S <u>altPl71@neta65.org</u>