

Guidelines -- Public Information Committee

Mid-Southern California Area 09

Approved Sept. 12, 2004

I. Purpose: The goal of AA public information, which is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, is achieved in five ways:

- A. Carrying the message by verbal communication
- B. Carrying the message with conference approved literature
- C. Carrying the message with films and video cassettes
- D. Carrying the message by use of the media: TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines
- E. Keeping the Fellowship well-informed, so that members and groups may carry the message more effectively

II. Composition:

- A. Area Public Information Committee Officers
- B. District Public Information Representatives
- C. Other interested AA members

III. Officers:

- A. Co-Chairpersons (one of whom shall be from the Hispanic Community) are nominated and elected by the Area Assembly, and in case of a vacancy, replaced the same way.
- B. An Alternate Chairperson
- C. A Secretary or a Secretary-Treasurer elected by the committee
- D. The officers shall serve a two-year term, beginning in January of even number of years.
- E. Duties of the Officers:
 - 1. Co-Chairpersons
 - a. By mutual agreement, the meetings shall be presided over by one of the Co-Chairpersons.
 - b. The Co-Chairpersons shall inform the Secretary of the date, time, and place of the next meeting.
 - c. They shall prepare an agenda to be used at the meeting.
 - d. They shall see that agendas and minutes are submitted to the Board.
 - e. They shall make a report to the Area Service Committee Meeting and/or Area Assembly when requested.
 - 2. The Alternate Chairperson shall carry out the duties of the Chair when asked or when the Co-Chairpersons are unable to do so.
 - 3. The Secretary shall:
 - a. Circulate a sign-in sheet at each meeting
 - b. Record and distribute minutes of each meeting

IV. Responsibility: The PI Committee shall be responsible to the Area Assembly and the Area Officers, being ever responsive to suggestions from either.

V. Boundaries and Relationships:

- A. The Area PI projects should be limited to those projects involving only the Mid-Southern California Area except in such cases as radio or TV or other media which affect another Area(s). The other Area(s) should, when possible, be informed and cooperation sought.
- B. The Area Committee shall follow the AA guideline entitled “Central or Intergroup Offices”, where a statement that the Central Offices and General Service Committees are complementary, rather than competitive, AA operations. Both exist to insure AA unity and fulfill AA’s primary purpose of “carrying the message” through separate structures.
- C. If a CPC, Correctional Facilities or Treatment Facilities Committee is already involved in a particular PI project, the Area 09 PI Committee should not interfere nor attempt to duplicate the project.
 - 1. Action should be limited to offering cooperation and help.
 - 2. Ideally, each entity (CPC, Corrections Facilities, Treatment Facilities and General Service PI Committees) should be encouraged to do those projects which it can best implement.

VI. Financing:

- A. Usually the cost of performing a Public Information Project is met from the contributions of whatever body forms the committee. (See AA Guidelines, Public Information”, P.1)

VII. Meetings

- A. The Area PI Committee should meet every month or when the need arises in the interim.
- B. The meeting schedule should be planned by the Co-Chairpersons and approved by the PI Committee at the first meeting of the year.
- C. Meetings should be announced in the MSCA Newsletter when possible.
- D. Holding meetings prior to the Assembly, or Area Service Committee Meetings should be considered.

VIII. In the absence of specific indications in these guidelines, the latest edition of the GSO PI Workbook or the GSO Guidelines for Public Information may be relied upon.