

***Respectfully submitted by***

July 13, 2008 at CMIA

***CPC of MI Area 32***

By

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

Art M., Chair, CPC Committee  
Steve R., Co-Chair

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## ***CPC - POSITION REPORT***

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### ***COOPERATING WITH PROBATION AND PAROLE DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITIES BY HOLDING A.A. MEETING GROUP ORIENTATION MEETINGS***

This report is provided to MI Area 32 districts about a service to probation and parole departments and other legal authorities. The topic is about holding orientation meetings for those who will be attending A.A. meetings as a legal sentencing option. This opinion is not in any way intended to put forth any mandate or policy toward A.A. services related to this service. It is intended to share with those in service, or considering the service, the opinion of this committee. Extensive investigation has been performed on this subject by this committee including attendance at such meetings and meeting groups, research of A.A. materials and other. The "12 Traditions," "12 Steps" and general service intentions and objectives as presented elsewhere in A.A. and fellowship writings and presentations are, in the belief of this committee, essential to be understood prior to initiating this service.

Service by A.A.s for such orientation meetings should start from within A.A. and not from the legal entities that ultimately request or use such orientation meetings for those who will be attending group meetings to comply with

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probation or parole requirements. A.A. provides excellent guidelines for CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community), CFC (Correctional Facilities Committee), PI (Public Information) and other service committees to inform the public and professionals about A.A. In Guidelines, workbooks and other literature the A.A. can be guided into and through the service of the particular committee. There should be an acute awareness of the purpose and content of the “12 Traditions” and “12 Steps” and how they apply by each individual alcoholic moving into or performing such services.

All service work should enhance the individual spiritual growth of the individual A.A. to provide growth in their individual sobriety and application of the “12 Steps.” When we move into service such as this, we are presenting ourselves and A.A. to those in professional fields and those who will then attend A.A. group meetings as initiated by the legal system. While some in the judicial system may intend that introduction to A.A. by meeting attendance will help the individual with an addiction problem, it is also true that many individuals consider this an extension of their penalty. We all know that for the “Principles” of the A.A. program to work for an alcoholic the individual must want the recovery from the Fellowship and we welcome all into our meeting groups no matter how they arrive. What meeting group meetings are about, matters of meeting structure and generally acceptable conduct at such meetings, sponsorship and the basis of recovery from alcoholism and more, are for the meeting groups themselves to present including how to receive newcomers no matter how they arrive.

There is growing evidence of problems at meeting groups expressed quite loudly in Area 32 districts and other geographical locations. The problems we hear are generally about individuals disrupting meetings in various ways in and outside of host facilities. Lack of participation in meetings by those attending to “get sheets signed” or otherwise evidenced by lack of desire to attend is widely reported by meeting groups. Your CPC Committee at Area 32 makes no judgment about whether or not your district committees should provide such orientation meetings. We do feel that to reduce or eliminate the problems that are expressed that we in A.A. have the responsibility to be aware of the following prior to initiating such an orientation to meeting groups in this manner. If you have such an orientation meeting now in existence we strongly suggest that you consider reviewing the following by all involved with such a service.

- A complete review of the A.A. “12 Traditions” so that all can discuss how, if at all, this service can be initiated and carried out properly within them.

- Discussion with the CFC (Correctional Facility Committee) in the district to ensure that what the CFC service is about and how CFC interface with the correctional facilities and personnel including probation, parole and judicial entities by those who will oversee the orientation meetings.
- Discussion with CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community) Committee persons in the district to ensure that there is awareness of how CPC is suggested to function in presenting A.A. to the professional community. It is normally the responsibility of CPC to present A.A. to those persons in probation, parole and other judicial “professions.”
- Discussion with A.A.s serving as “trusted servants,” such as Chair, Treasurer and/or Secretary at local district meeting groups to learn group experiences and gain their opinions. Ensure that presentations to those who will be attending meeting groups and the judicial “professionals” are aware of concerns by or needs of meeting groups to improve group relations with such people and the groups.
- Presentations at local meeting groups and at district meetings where local meeting groups can be made aware of the proposed service since it ultimately will affect all groups. Such presentations would ideally be made by those who are planning to oversee and conduct orientation or familiarization meetings. Acceptance, or lack of acceptance of this service by meeting groups, should provide a sound and acceptable decision, a “meeting of conscience,” for the best actions and results.

In this CPC committee’s investigation, such services provided by districts or central offices that have not gone through a process of educating A.A.s and meeting groups within the district have in some ways presented problems to the meeting groups in districts that could be avoided. Discussions with those in other committees and service groups and reading and discussing Guidelines for each committee service and the “12 Traditions” appears lacking for planning and implementing such service. It is also the opinion of this committee that when one reads the various reference materials published by A.A., discusses them with meeting groups and considers whether or not it is appropriate for such a presentation, that it will often be decided as an inappropriate relationship with the judicial system and service. CPC and CFC are properly structured to present A.A. to those in the profession itself. Meeting groups are best to decide how to present A.A. and their specific meeting group to those persons attending A.A. group meetings in this or any other manner. The meeting groups are generally the best to present what a meeting group is about and to introduce newcomers from all walks of life and ways of entering A.A. what the A.A. Fellowship is about and “How it Works.”

We suggest that the “Hand of AA” for this service is best left to meeting groups. We also suggest that the “Hand of AA” can be more effective by districts helping to increase education at meeting groups and supporting continuing education and resources to local meeting groups.

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