

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019 AGM

March 2019 | Submitted by Alison E.

Our committee remained small this year, but our focus was on developing a few key documents that we hope will serve us and others in spreading the message of ABA to professionals, prospective members, and non-ABA groups (the public).

After completing our review of the AA Public Information Workbook, we drafted our own Guidelines for Speaking at Non-ABA Events, in anticipation of presenting at schools, conferences, workshops, treatment centres, and other venues. This we submitted to the Literature Committee for review. Guided by their feedback, we further amended the document for resubmission; however, we decided to withdraw our submission when it became clear that the Literature Committee had their hands full with the task of preparing the updated ABA textbook for print.

Two of our members also drafted a Letter to Physicians, which we designed to be presented along with ABA pamphlets and the document *A Doctor's Viewpoint on ABA* to doctors and specialists who may treat people with eating disorders. Our committee reviewed and revised the letter before submitting it to the Literature Committee. As with the Guidelines for Speaking at Non-ABA Events, we withdrew the document from review until the Literature Committee has finished with the ABA textbook.

Throughout the year, our members have maintained supplies of literature and meeting listings in various strategic locations in our respective cities. We have also been on the lookout for places to speak to non-ABA audiences about our Fellowship — particularly at those concerning mental health, addictions, and eating disorders. After consulting the document *AA Guidelines for Public Information*, we made one of our goals for 2019 to hold “practice talks” as a way to build confidence and strengthen the message.

We also determined to create a database of all the locations we have distributed literature and meeting listings as easy reference for maintaining contact and information with these places. Some locations may offer good opportunities for speaking engagements.

In December, Amy stepped down as Public Information Committee chairperson, and Alison was designated in her place at the Board Meeting that month.