

Area PI Coordinator Report

December 2020-12-14

Hello folks just an extra note from me to all AA members in the area. I could not leave my position without reporting on one of the biggest events in the AA PI calendar this year.

Our PI work has been quite restricted this year due to COVID, but the PI Professionals Luncheon still went ahead. Thanks to the enormous efforts of Brian F and team.

During the year, I have reported on PI positives and this was undoubtedly AA PI at its best. Here is the report of the event, written by Brian F

“AA - Professionals awareness luncheon” - 25th November 2020

On Wednesday, the 25th November AA District Nine on the Sunshine Coast hosted their fourth bi-annual Professionals Awareness Luncheon in the function rooms at the Maroochydore RSL Club. The time frame was 11.30am for a 12.00 pm start with a 2.00pm finish.

In attendance, there were forty-nine Professional guests as well as three Al-Anon guests and twenty-one AA members. The seating arrangements were eleven tables seating six people (four guests and two members) and one table of seven people (five guests and two members). The Al-Anon guests made up one of the two Fellowship people at three of the tables for the ease of making the numbers work.

The format for the day was (1) The welcome and reading of some AA guidelines around Co-operation with Professionals (2) Talk by Non-AA member who is a well-respected Social Worker / Dual Diagnosis Counsellor on the Sunshine Coast and is a great friend of AA. (3) Serving of the meal. (4) Talk by Al-Anon member (5) Desert and tea / coffee (6) Reading of Lasker Citation and information about AA Book in the USA Congress Library followed by AA Member’s talk. (7) Closing remarks / Guideline / Thank you.

Since the event we have received text messages / phone calls / and some emails with endorsement and compliments regarding the luncheon; but more importantly support for the idea of AA becoming a resource for these people. The one from Dr John Miles is of great “AA value” as he is one of the leading Psychiatrists in Qld Public Health on the Sunshine Coast.

We feel our objective was obtained and the feedback from members seated at the various tables, talking to the guests was very positive and supportive of AA, creating an awareness for those that had no or limited knowledge about AA. In all, this was a great example of “Carrying the Message” outside the meeting rooms and “making friends with our Professional Community”.

Simply put, here was “AA in Action”

The following are some examples of feedback from Professionals who attended the luncheon.

"I'm just wanting to say a big thank-you for a wonderful luncheon experience last Wednesday. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about AA, the guest speakers were great and I met some terrific people. My lunch was delicious with compliments to the catering team for quality and service.

I really loved your closing story about the AA member jumping into the hole to offer support to the man crying out for help, simple but strong message speaking to the power of the lived experience. It was clear to me that AA members are proud and passionate and most of all welcoming to anybody ready to take the journey.

Thanks again and Merry Christmas to You and Yours. Kind regards, Jill Wilson, Social Worker "

Congratulations on hosting such a wonderful event. How lovely to have such great feedback, it makes all the effort put in well worthwhile! I will also say I thoroughly enjoyed myself too and you and the other three speakers were fantastic. I'm sure everyone in the room benefited from listening and hopefully understanding what AA and Al-Anon have to offer.

Many thanks again for the invitation and you can be sure the positive feedback will be mentioned at our next district meeting. Cheers, Pat

*"Thank you so much for our invitation to the AA luncheon. It was so lovely to hear the testimonies of your members, and to acknowledge the good golden work done by Alcoholics Anonymous in the world. Over my working career I have been in a position to work closely with AA sponsors and always was impressed by their genuine and gentle support and leadership. Once again thank you for inviting me to your function which turned into a networking opportunity in the support agencies.
Regards Trudie Director-Wellbeing "*

From this report, you can undoubtedly see that this event was a "PI Positive". A group of people were brought together in unity to share information about AA and in doing so achieved our primary purpose – to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers".

Awesome work and thanks to everybody involved.