

AGENDA TOPIC 1: REPORT FROM LITERATURE GROUP

Maude: discussed that they are asking people to write about how they work the steps in secular, not how you think others should work them, but how you work them.

Kris: wants to go on record that sharing recordings from meetings was a great tool and that people are specifically asking for recordings.

Michae E: suggested transcribing and having written shares posted on website as well. He offered to use his access to an excellent transcription program he has.

Ken: not really necessary; have to ask permission; written words seems possibly more intrusive; for example if someone talks about child abuse he wouldn't want it written down.

Mark: discussed how writing down a verbal share can be incoherent, even when all the "ums" and "ahs" are taken out. Amy agreed.

Elliott: can also help with transcription; various types of media we can use.

Michael E: also suggested turning it into a podcast for wider potential distribution and audience.

Kristina asked if we might be violating tradition of "what is said in meetings stays in meetings"...and that this is a question to keep in mind.= for transcripts or podcast.

Michael E shared that these are recordings where speakers have given their explicit permission to be recorded – so its ok. If it were, for instance, a recording of the whole meeting, that would be a problem. Also pointed out that if it is breaking a tradition to have it written down, then the recordings are also breaking that tradition.

Further discussion/decisions tabled. No urgency.

Agenda Topic No. 2: Name of this Meeting/Group

Michael E: Names we use or are thinking of include: Secular NA; Secular NA Service Group; Service Group of Secular Meetings of NA

Kristina: concerned that having word "Service" in title limits it to people in service and we have decided to open it up to anyone, so we should change the name.

Ken: This meeting is a service meeting so it doesn't make sense to take the word service out of the name. Amy agreed.

Maud: was at regional and shared that there is a lot of criticism and concern about “Secular NA”; that we are changing the program; that we are not part of NA, etc. This stems partly from the name “Secular NA” and that we need to change the name to “Secular Meetings of Narcotics Anonymous”.

Ken pointed out that the name of the website has already been changed. Further discussion was had about whether to also change the URL or the website. It was determined that website domain is available.

It was agreed to change the name of our group to

SERVICE GROUP FOR SECULAR MEETINGS OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Short form: SERVICE GROUP

A long discussion followed about frustrations and contradictions of this whole debacle.

Mark: pointed out that while LGBTQ meetings are considered a “special interest” meeting, they do not refer to themselves as “Gay NA”....and that if they did it would cause some blowback.

Michael E: suggested for website url to keep secular NA and add NA Secular Meetings.

Ken: asked why – what is the advantage.

Michael E and Maude: placating our critics.

Kristina: suggested it’s not needed unless we replace “Secular NA” with “NA Secular Meetings”, but that we don’t need both. Also stated that what is most important is that people can find us.

Elliot: pointed out that you can “re-direct” easily.

Maude: if we have both will really give our critics less fuel for their fire.

Maude: Another name option was NA-secular.org

Further discussion tabled.

Agenda Topic 3: New chair for *this* group

Michael E: announced he needs to step down.

Amy N. was nominated and she reluctantly accepted.

Michael E offered to train. Amy noted to group her lack of tech skills.

Ken offered to be back up.

THANK YOU MIKE FOR YOUR YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE

Agenda Topic 4: Other or New Biz

- *Financial support for Kristina's trip to the Convention in Ohio* as a representative for Secular NA. Ken requested we ramp up our efforts to get donations. Can we promote fundraising more at group level? (YES!) Amy requested someone write up a script with all the info and link to where to donate funds that we can announce at Sun. meetings, and send to other Secretaries to make announcements. Michael E offered to write one up asap.
- Kristina requested for our next meeting to put on the agenda: *How to handle disruptive behavior* and described a situation where someone who had been in the meeting for over ½ hour suddenly started cussing out the speaker.
- Mark: requested group emails re this meeting use blind cc. Michael E agreed to change it and will show Amy how to do this.

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NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 8th

(skipping a month because of date falls on Mother's Day in May)