



Service Group For Secular Meetings of Narcotics Anonymous

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 13, 2025 (Sunday)
Time: 1:00 PM (PDT)
Duration: 60 minutes
Location: Zoom Virtual Conference Rooms
Adjourned: 2:00 PM (PDT)

Attendees: Amy
Mark
Maud
Michael
Ken
Kris
Paulette
Rushil
Dave

Agenda 1: Report from the Literature Group

- **Maud** reported that the literature group is coming along really well. She encouraged people who can't write submissions to volunteer to review them. She further told the group that by the coming **Sunday (20th of July)**, all the submitted literature will have been reviewed. Any further discussions or changes will be communicated to the service group at the next business meeting.
- **Paulette** volunteered to review the submitted literature. She asked if the submissions needed to be edited for clarity. **Maud** clarified that the submissions only needed to be reviewed to see if they meet a certain criteria and to provide appropriate feedback. She then offered to share the criteria with **Paulette**.
- **Amy** also volunteered to review the submitted literature. She asked if the submissions were coming from the general public with religious and/or other types of god phraseology. **Maud** clarified that the submissions were just exclusive to the secular

community. She further mentioned that the submissions would be kept anonymous, without names, and sorted by numbers, so as to not insult anybody reading their own review.

- **Maud** answered several other questions and pointed out that the literature committee was currently working on step three submissions which, after review, would all be posted as a collection on the Secular NA website. She reminded people to limit their submissions to around 750 words.
 - **Amy** asked **Maud** if she received or followed up on a PDF file sent to her containing a Canadian version of the secular steps. **Maud** deferred the question to **Michael** who said he wasn't sure either. **Amy** offered to re-send the files over to **Michael** and he agreed to post them on the website promptly.
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Agenda 2: The Need For A Contact Person/Email From Each NA Secular Meeting

- Following a discussion in a previous meeting regarding the listing of all meetings, **Michael** suggested that it was important for the service group to have a list of emails or other contact information of at least one dedicated person from **each** secular NA meeting.
- This need was proposed to serve several benefits:
 - New members who may have questions about certain meetings can be directed to a single point of communication and be provided with accurate information.
 - If there are scheduling or other changes to any of the secular meetings, and those changes are not communicated to the rest of the group, then a dedicated member (currently **Maud**) with login access to the BMLT database can periodically check and verify potential inconsistencies.
 - If such inconsistencies are found, and if there exists a list of at least one person from each NA Secular meeting, someone can easily email or contact that person (or that meeting's service group email) for an update on the meeting(s) status.
- **Amy** pointed out that she had been advocating for these measures for quite some time, but a potentially problematic issue would be having to have a “**keeper**” of the list who'd have to manage and maintain the list dynamically because changes occur constantly.

- **Kris** mentioned that it would **not** be too difficult for her to reach out to at least one person from each meeting since she has emails and contacts from a lot of different meeting groups and members through her Whatsapp contacts.
Kris also volunteered to create the list.
 - **Several members** were against the idea of putting personal email addresses and phone numbers out into the world for anyone to see.
 - **Ken** suggested that it'd be better for such a list to remain private and be sent to him. People who have questions about meetings or other information can be referred to the Secular NA email address which **Ken** already manages. He suggested that if he had the list he could forward or otherwise pass on the questions to the specific groups' contact person on the list.
 - **Maud** pointed out that the BMLT database will not display contact information of specific meetings to the public, furthermore a chain of emails from person A to person B to C and so on could create further unnecessary steps. She suggested that we just keep the contact information in the private BMLT section of a meeting, which is only visible to the service members with proper login credentials.
 - **Kris** agreed with **Ken's** suggestion that there should be one point of contact for people seeking information about specific meetings. **Michael** further supported this idea. He volunteered to put in a prompt on the website which would say "If anybody has any questions about any meeting, please contact secularna@gmail.com."
 - Lastly, **Amy** asked **Kris** to send the finished list to **Maud** to be put up on the BMLT for maintenance purposes.
 - The question of who might be willing to maintain the BMLT database was **tabled**.
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Agenda 3: The Need For a Younger Tech Person to be Trained on Running the BMLT

- **Michael** and **Maud** pointed out that they need a "younger" web/tech friendly person to be able to take over in case of illnesses or other problems. They mentioned that they would train this person overtime and provide them with the requisite credentials.
- **Rushil** volunteered to take responsibility for that service position. **Michael** let **Rushil** know that **Michael** and **Maud** would be in touch with him through email and help familiarize him with the website/platform.

- There were no objections from the group on this agenda and it was concluded.

Agenda 4: Solidarity Day Event / SMNA Virtual Convention

- **Ken** pointed out that the secular meetings of NA were approaching a 10 year celebration mark. The first registered secular meeting started in 2015 in Australia, Melbourne. He further added that it would be a great show of resilience and robustness of Secular NA if there was a solidarity event where people showed up in large numbers.
- **Kris** and **Ken** discussed that sometime around October/November this year would be appropriate.
- **Ken** suggested that **Friday** would be an ideal day. The two back to back meetings from 5 PM (PDT) and 6 PM (PDT) meetings could be merged and possibly capture the largest audience to make it a well attended event.
- **Kris** suggested **Saturday** might be better than Friday at about the same time, pointing out that on Fridays many people might still be working, or trying to get home from work. Also, she pointed out that the same Zoom ID and password for the meeting that usually happens at 5:30 PM (PDT) on Saturdays, which is already well advertised, could be used so people who might otherwise not know about the event could also show up.
- **Ken** agreed and suggested there be a 90 minute meeting with an optional 15 minute parking lot before and after the event.

Agenda 5: Pamphlet For Submitting To The Fellowship For Approval

- **Michael C** (not in attendance) prepared a pamphlet and asked **Kris** to read it at the business meeting. His proposed title was: "Secular Recovery in NA".
- In lieu of time constraints and the hefty length of the piece, it was decided that instead of reading it in the meeting, **Kris** would email it to everybody so that everybody gets time to read it at their own pace and discuss it next time.
- **Ken** admired the work and acknowledged **Michael C's** efforts on the pamphlet, but regrettably remarked it would be a futile endeavor to seek publication. The literature submission process has multiple stages: submitting ideas, developing IPs, finalizing IPs, and then having them published. Unfortunately none of it involves an individual or a group writing a piece like this and submitting it for review to be considered. Instead,

Ken remarked that we could publish it on the NA Secular website as a non-NA approved resource.

- **Maud** agreed with **Ken** and also pointed out that something similar had already been tried before. She mentioned that she was already involved with established writing work, and about 10 to 15 years ago, a very similar attempt was made to send a secular pamphlet to NAWS for approval which got promptly rejected.
 - **Maud** further mentioned that at a previous conference, where NA world services asked people about where they wanted to allocate resources, Secular Literature was brought up as a potential candidate, but **not** voted in.
 - It is unlikely, **Maud** said, that it would even be brought up until the next conference, but she encouraged members in their home groups, areas, and regions to put in a motion regarding Secular NA literature, so that it could be a potential candidate in the next set of topics at a future conference.
 - **Kris** recommended that the pamphlet be sent as a submission to the literature committee for review so that it may be viewed by a large group of people, before being posted on the website.
 - **Ken** mentioned that we need to develop a strategy to advance our cause because of its importance. **Amy** concurred and remarked that even if an effort seems impossible, it should be done anyway. The word still spreads and has a rippling effect on people over time.
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Agenda 6: Other / New Business, Questions, Remarks, Issues, Future Agendas

- **Ken** brought up a potentially controversial issue which was the result of someone accidentally switching on the **AI** transcription and summarization tool during a meeting.
- A fairly simple fix was suggested which involved disabling a particular setting from the owner's zoom account. **Ken** also stressed on educating other people who might be unaware of this so that it doesn't happen again. Letting AI transcribe could be considered a violation of the principle “we are under no surveillance at any time” and also violate anonymity of members.
- **Kris** thoroughly investigated this issue, why and how it happened, and obtained screenshots for the exact steps to turn off the setting. **Michael** asked **Kris** to forward this information to **Bob O** (not in attendance) who takes care of all meetings and has owner level access on zoom.

- There was a debate about the potential advantages versus disadvantages of using AI in business meetings. The overwhelming consensus was **against** any use of AI for transcription or summarisation.
- **Kris** mentioned that she had amazing success with training cohosts by showing up half an hour early at the meetings she runs. She volunteered to continue to remind people on Whatsapp.
- **Amy** added that service members could send notifications to their respective groups to let people know of the dates and times of cohost training to help get the word out to anyone who may be interested in learning how to cohost.
- **Rushil** asked to be added to the service group and **Kris** informed him that she would do the needful.
- The next business meeting is scheduled to be on **Sunday, August 10, 2025, 1 PM (PDT), 4 PM (EDT), 9 PM (GMT), 6 AM (Monday AEST), and 1:30 AM (IST).**

This concludes the minutes of the meeting
