

November 9th Service Meeting for Secular Meetings of NA (SMNA)

Present; Amy (Chair), Kris, Raven, Mark, Paulette, Mike, Maggie, Tom, Rushil.
Apologies; Maud

Some discussion was had about the possibility of using AI to help transcribe the meeting minutes. Tom was strongly opposed as he believed there were issues of anonymity and privacy involved. It was decided to hold this issue over for further discussion at the next service meeting.

Ken volunteered to do the minutes from an audio recording as done previously.

Writing Committee Report. (Kris)

The Literature (Writing) Committee will recommence work at step 1 at its next meeting on Sunday November the 16th at 4pm (Pacific). Kris will work with Mike to do a flyer to advertise this meeting. It is hoped that more people will come forward to help with this work. They would like people to make a 6 month commitment.

Review of the Community Day event/meeting.

Kris; the meeting was well attended (about 52 at it's peak) with 13 guest speakers. The speakers were representatives from a number of different weekly meetings and were asked to speak about the SPAD from March 19th - Feeling Connected- Finding Community. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the event. We (the activities committee) hope to reconvene to begin planning another event, perhaps New Years Eve.

Ken; explained that his history talk focused on the Melbourne Beyond Belief meeting and secular meetings of NA more broadly as that was the rationale for the ten year anniversary. He had asked several groups to send him a brief history of their groups but had realized there was too much to include in the time he had allocated. He said that perhaps that material (the other group histories) could become part of another more comprehensive history project. He praised the people who worked on the committee and said it worked really well.

Amy; mentioned that there are 24 hour NA marathon meetings over the holidays (not secular).

Kris; Mentioned that she had had feedback about groups using "secularna" as a password as we are trying to move away from using that term.

Amy; asked if anyone (external) had complained?

Kris; No, only people in meetings who were against using that wording.

Amy; suggested that zoom passwords were a bit more "low key" and that she felt it was not a big problem.

NAWS - Current Surveys and Issue Discussion Topics. (Ken)

These surveys have been posted on the NAWS website and can be done individually or as groups. There are quite a few opportunities for "us" to have our say regarding things like the use of "God" in the developing new NA literature, books, pamphlets etc. He explained that he had posted a link to these surveys in the Featured section on the Facebook group (the Secular NA Coffee Shop) and asked for groups to consider including this in their announcements over the next 3 - 4 months.

Amy ; suggested making an informative flyer for this project which explains the purpose and practical steps for people to do these surveys.

Mike; Said that he was already participating in this process at an in-person meeting he attends and that everyone can have a say.

Tom; suggested bringing this discussion to group business meetings.

Amy; asked Mike to work on a flyer. Ken offered to help.

Elaina; asked if secular meetings of NA are registered with areas.

Kris; some are registered with areas such as Seattle and the Florida Freethinkers.

Ken; two of the three Australian meetings are registered with the Victorian Area but one is a floater.

Kris; All meetings are listed with NAWS meeting database.

Mark; stated that it is important for our online meetings to be connected to the official NA service structure so that we can participate in the group conscience process.

Mike; stated that connection to an area can help facilitate fund flow.

Amy; Santa Cruz has a GSR and participates at the area.

Tom; suggested that we look into finding a marathon (24hr) meeting over the holidays that we may be able to host an hour in and suggested Ken do that as he has liaised with those groups in the past. Ken agreed to do that.

Rushil; mentioned that on the Secular NA Website the information about our service meeting under the heading of "Service Group" was out of date. Kris volunteered to contact Mike to have the next service meeting time etc. put up.

At 4.57 pm (Pacific) Amy thanked us all and ended the meeting.

The next meeting will be on December 15th at the same time.