

MINUTES FROM SERVICE GROUP MEETING OF SECULAR MEETINGS OF NA

Date: 05/10/26

podcast report – See Mike's email.

Q1 Mike asked "Should I pick speakers alternating between 2025 and 2026 speakers?"

Kris - I am more concerned that there is variety in the tone of speakers as they are put out.

Maud - stated that micro-managing Mike would be horrible and unnecessary and he is doing a good job. If there were issues then perhaps intervene but there aren't any so let's leave him to it.

Q2 Publicity. Mike asked if there was a volunteer to help with posting the new episodes to various Facebook groups etc.

Kris: Expressed disappointment at how difficult it is to get people to do service in Secular NA. Disappointed at today's attendance for example. Excited to see the newcomers here at this meeting. Maybe we need a newsletter or an announcement area on the website where we can announce that we are looking for people to do these things. It would reach a broader group of people.

Amy: Likes that idea (like a bulletin board showing where service is needed). In conventional NA they hammer service in ways we don't seem to. Keep mentioning the importance of service. Maybe ask Mike to write up a short description of that role and we could announce it at our meetings.

Maud: It's not just secular where there is a problem with service volunteers. They are doing "gorilla" type roles where people sign up for a single task or responsibility. She was also in favor of advertising positions on the website and the Coffee Shop (Facebook).

By cutting down the tasks it makes it easier to get volunteers.

Q3; Should we consider sun-setting (retiring it) the website speaker posting and just point to the podcast? This isn't urgent just something to consider.

Kris: Explained what Mike is proposing. Kris thought we should keep the speakers on the website.

Amy: There is a link to the podcast on the website right?

Maud: The Literature group discussed having the speaker talk about a step.

Ken: (American Ken) offered to help Mike with editing or processing the speaker recordings.

Ken: (the Australian) suggested that Mike is very focussed on the task of producing the podcasts and hasn't really asked for help with that. He also stated that it is no work to leave the speaker recordings on the website and that they are accessible to a different audience than podcasts (perhaps). Would not be in favor of sun-setting adding speakers to the website or removing any of the existing recordings.

We showed the graphs from Mike's email.

Belief Not Needed Meeting Issues

Ken : background. I recieved an email on the secularna email (which I monitor) from Krista. The email outlined her concerns regarding her experienced attending one of the BNN meetings. I passed these concerns on to Elena who I know is a service member of that group and she agreed to raise the concerns raised with them by calling a business meeting.

Elena: The BNN group has been struggling with volunteers to take the lead on hosting and security at their meetings. They have had gaps on their roster and have had people jumping at the last minute. That was the March April period. It has been patchy. Some meetings have had solid members run the meeting but at least one meeting has had new or non-business meeting people running the meeting. The group's Whatsapp groups were blowing up with people upset with what was happening. Elena asked the person responsible and apparently he had thought it was ok for it to descend into a sort of anarchy. Anyway they had had their business meeting last Sunday and had decided to change the time and day of the meeting so the available people can be available. The service people are mainly in Europe but could people involved in this service group please consider coming along to the BNN meeting to support it in the next month or so. The two BNN meetings were on Tuesday and Saturday (USA time) but will now just be on Sunday afternoon. I will make up a flyer to advertise this change in time. Thanks for this opportunity to update, debrief and offload and thanks for being interested. Questions are welcome.

Maud: Please send me the new meeting details and I can do that immediately.

Amy: We will now give Krista an opportunity to tell us about what happened.

Krista's Statement here:

Belief Not Needed Report

I have attended 4 Saturday Belief Not Needed groups to achieve my 90 in 90. Not once had there been a host or a service member, but it was a convenient time for me. The entire

meeting the first 3 Saturdays were just sharing. The same member had jumped in as host those Saturdays. They just said thank you for sharing and called on members with their hands up. There were no slides, security, mission statement, clean time, 7th tradition, or anything else that is at 100% of the other meetings.

On Saturday, 4/25/26, at the BNN meeting, a new member decided to be host and stated they had never been to a Secular NA meeting before. They attend regular NA. Their background image on Zoom was 4 standard NA books. I was skeptical since I am atheist and find all the books offensive. The host started with 5 topics which they took from the NA Big Book's suggestions. One was Higher Power and another was God. I wrote to them in the chat that they should read the mission statement at secularna.org. God, Higher Power, or any religious language is not appropriate from the host. The new host refused to read it. Then said they were going to read out of the Big Book at random. I messaged that Secular NA does not read passages that involved God, Higher Power, praying, grace, etc. I said any attendee can share what they want though. The new host told me that I need to think of God as a doorknob or the ocean. Then they started reading out of the Big Book. I left the group. I had to go to another meeting that day to make my 90 in 90. I was offended by the Saturday new host. I felt betrayed and angry by Secular NA for days. I had begun to trust Secular NA and was disappointed. I reported this incident to Secular NA International.

I attended the Tuesday BNN meeting, 4/28/26. I was hoping, since it was on a different day, that there would be a host, slides, mission statement, etc., and that it was only the Saturday meeting that was the problem. There was another regular host for Tuesdays, but not one other service member. There was a slide for the Secular NA mission statement. The host also said that they got in trouble and would not be talking about God.

I was still upset about the Belief Not Needed meeting Saturday. I shared it with the group at the Tuesday BNN meeting. I had 28 days clean. I was unfamiliar with having feelings and how to handle them. After my share, the host said that I needed to yell the 2 quotes that they had put up. The host put the quotes in a weird spot on the Zoom platform. They did not screenshare them. I did not say at this point that I was not going to yell it, and it was not reasonable to do so. I thought it was a very odd request that I never heard of at any other meeting. I was unfamiliar with how the Zoom platform worked. For quite a long time the host tried to walk me through it. They were very frustrated and loud about it. I asked the

host several times if they or another member could find the quotes and read it instead. The host barked "No!" every time and repeated that they wanted me to yell it. Finally, a group member raised their hand and asked if they could just read it. The host finally let them. It was two pop culture quotes, not passages from Secular or regular NA literature. The message of the quotes was that my perception was the problem. I found this an unhelpful and unkind response. The host apologized for not hosting Saturday, 4/25/26, and they had a test to take that day. The host shared they received a 98% and stated their school was more important than hosting BNN meetings. The host did not comment on the other 3 meetings where there was no host or service members, which I also said in my share. The host also said that they came in on Saturday, 4/25/26, late. The host stated they do not like to interrupt other hosts, but knew what the new host was doing was against Secular NA guidelines.

I felt bullied by the Tuesday host and took Wednesday, 4/29/26, off my 90 in 90. I asked 2 members via text with lots of clean time if I could take a day off. They said 90 in 90 was recommended, but it wasn't a hard and fast rule. One of them asked if it was from the Belief Not Needed Whatsapp group chat the night before. I said I didn't know anything about it and asked what happened. I heard that the Tuesday host was raging out all night about me including calling me a "snitch" and a "weak bitch". There were screenshots taken by members. I felt totally betrayed by Secular NA for including the BNN group as recommended and listed on their website. I was starting to think I should just not go to Secular NA anymore. I already was never going to go to a regular NA group because I found it extremely offensive to my religion. I reported the Whatsapp event to Secular NA International. The communications manager said to stop going to the BNN meetings and the other groups were fine. I had found that true from the 32 days I had gone to other groups. The other 2 members I text with via cell also said for me not to attend another BNN group, too.

I decided to take another two days off as well because I was so worn out from the BNN drama. On Friday, 5/1/26, I extremely wanted to go back to using. I had already lost my 90 in 90...and was feeling like I was going to leave anyway from my bad experiences. I realized I had to go back to the other Secular NA groups and attended that night to avoid using. Since then, 100% of the other Secular NA groups have been great and supportive like the other 32 I had previously attended. No other hosts have cross talked or given advice on my shares.

Maud : Thank you Krista. Thank you for your bravery.

Amy: Thanks for sharing Krista and I am glad you are having positive experiences in the other secular meetings of NA because there are a lot of good ones out there. I am sorry that that happened to you.

Elena: Thanks Krista that sounds awful and I think it's a good lesson for all of us to make sure that there is a good reliable roster and not leave things to the last minute. Our group will be doing this from now on and it is a good lesson for all of us.

Ken: Thanks Krista for your courage in sharing that and I hope it helps. I appreciate Elena's report and in particular her asking for support from people outside of the regular BNN members especially people with experience with running meetings. I would attend but its 5.30 am and way too early for me. It would be great to see that group supported.

Amy: I hope we can all learn from this experience and make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen again because it is horrendous. Its hard to get steady people to do service and run meetings. At the Sunday meeting we have six secretaries and we each commit to doing 2 months a year and it works well.

Elena: We have one person who runs their summer but it can be complicated because of time zones.

Maud: One of the things I do, I am in charge of the meeting list (Maud then displayed the "back-end" of the system.) I try and maintain accurate contact information for each group.

Elena: That is me. Chase as well.

Maud: Please give us your information (each group should have a contact person). We never want this to happen again because it is horrifying.

Kris: Is there a regular script for the BNN meeting? We have a place on the website where we keep meeting scripts. This is incredibly useful if there is a sudden change of host.

Elena: The script is under review currently and I will update that when we have it done.

What time Sunday is the new time for BNN? 12.30pm (Pacific) Sunday

Amy: I am really glad Krista that you brought this to our attention. I have had a lot of bad experiences with conventional NA and have learned to stay away from places that are detrimental to my recovery.

Amy: That's about it for today. Thanks again Krista I hope you are feeling heard and seen and thank you for all of your courage in this.

Elena: Absolutely Krista thanks for documenting the problem and what you have done is really important because without it we wouldn't be having this level of discussion. So thanks you have really helped us learn.

Amy: And congratulations on your time Krista.

Kris: Instagram status. I will get back to doing this.

Ken: Just a reminder that we are planning another special event/meeting on the Summer Solstice Day in late June. We will be getting the committee back together shortly to plan this event.

Kris: Maybe we could do May the Forth next year.

Amy: Ok thanks everyone.

Maud: No St Patrick's Day next year please.

Kris: lets talk about this next year.