



**Open Forum:** Discussion about why PR removed a meeting from the meeting schedule that was not an NA meeting. See **SCFNA PR's Responsibility & Literature at NA Meetings.**

**ASC/Subcommittee Reports:**

- **RCM Report:** See written report on SonomaCountyNA.org website



- **Newsletter:** Cover theme is new beginnings. The content is 'Service'. Also positions are open and the content deadline is Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **PR:** Need help filling literature racks throughout the area. Also have Schools Presentations coming up. They will be online and there is a flyer on the website for those that want to be involved. Added a link to the website SonomaCountyNA.org to a video put out by world about NA copyright on literature.
- **NAYC:** Have a bunch of open positions. Now meet at Roundtable in Rohnert Park at 7:30 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Need ACS rep, PR rep, H&I, Activities, and Newsletter Rep. Thinking about planning a Skate Night sometime in March (maybe the 25<sup>th</sup>). Squeaky Clean Rockfest in May (around May 14<sup>th</sup>) at the Phoenix. Need bands. They need to be clean at event.
- **H&I:** Ordered \$500 worth of literature. Need more support for getting secretaries and speakers. Next Subcommittee meeting will be Feb 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30
- **Activities:** \$180 from New Year's Dance 7<sup>th</sup> donation. Talking about having a campout but not sure yet. Have some positions open.
- **Unity Day:** Have two positions open assist sec and assist treasurer. Sponsor Sponsee Dinner will be Sat March 5<sup>th</sup> 5-9pm. Held at Finely Community



Center. Will have presale tickets printed soon. Need volunteers to support.

SCFNA Unity Day Sub-Committee Presents

## Sponsor - Sponsee Dinner

**March 5, 2022**  
**5:00 - 9:00pm**

Silent Auction!

**Doors Open 4:30pm**  
**Dinner 5:00-6:30pm**  
**Silent Auction 6:30-7:30pm**  
**Speaker Meeting 7:30-9:00pm**

Finley Community Center  
2060 W. College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA

Presale: \$25 each  
At the door: \$30.00 each

For Info:  
Call: 707-324-4062, Ext. 800 | Email: [unityday@sonomacountyna.org](mailto:unityday@sonomacountyna.org)

Sonoma County Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous

- **Men's Breakfast:** Men's breakfast made a donation for approx. \$500 Meet first sat each month at 9am at Aroma Roasters in Santa Rosa. They currently only have two members. Need more support in order to have event.
- **Women's Breakfast:** Women's Brunch will be on 10/23/2022 at Sally Tomatoes and they are looking for donations for silent auction.
- **Office Liaison:** If you use it pick up after yourself. Will need PR to forward phone and email to Craig C the new office liaison
- **Literature:** \$1,132.21 ordered in literature and H&I was \$505.13 of that. Since Area didn't meet in person contact literature person James C to get lit. Also, region raised the shipping prices



## JAN 2021 GSR Report for Sonoma Online Group



so the amounts calculated on the website might not match what the actual cost is. Website was notified so it can be updated to match new costs.

- **Treasurer's report:**

LAST MONTH	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<b>Beginning Check Book Balance December 1, 2021</b>			\$ 6,286.53
<b>December Receipts</b>			
Meetings 7th Tradition Contributions-Venmo/Checks	\$ 382.11		
Anonymous Individual 7th Tradition Contributions-Venmo/Checks	\$ 167.00		
Contributions Received at Area Service Meeting	\$ 1,014.50		
7th Tradition @ ASC	\$ 47.00		
Literature	\$ 753.76		
NAYC	\$ 200.00		
<b>Total December Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 2,564.37</b>		
<b>December Expenses:</b>			
Freedom Voice/PR phone line-Oct 2021 (ACH)		\$ 36.30	
Zoom Room-November-Reimb Adrienne		\$ 14.99	
Sonoma County Fair-Vets Bldg Use Fee-December		\$ 137.50	
NCRSO-PR Literature		\$ 92.00	
NCRSO-H & I Literature		\$ 497.11	
NCRSO-Meeting Literature		\$ 638.36	
ASC: Lombardi Properties/December Rent-Area Office		\$ 730.00	
ASC: Craig C-Reimburse October PG&E		\$ 42.06	
PG&E-November		\$ 53.07	
Tania M:ASC Copies and Stamps		\$ 33.56	
Tania M:H&I Copies		\$ 9.02	
The Pressman: PR Meeting Schedules		\$ 75.83	
The Pressman: Newsletter Printing		\$ 167.43	
ASC: Treasurer Error. Overpaid to Pressman Ck 2927		\$ 0.20	
<b>Total December Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 2,527.43</b>	
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>			<b>\$ 6,323.47</b>
Less Prudent Reserve			\$ (6,535.00)
Insurance Deductible (Encumbered)			\$ (500.00)
<b>December 2021 Month End Working Balance</b>			<b>\$ (711.53)</b>



# JAN 2021 GSR Report for Sonoma Online Group



January 2022	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<b>Beginning Check Book Balance January 1, 2022</b>			\$ 6,323.47
<b>Current Month's Receipts</b>			
Meetings 7th Tradition Contributions-Venmo/Checks	\$ 280.13		
Anonymous Individual 7th Tradition Contributions-Venmo/Checks	\$ 100.00		
Contributions Received at Area Service Meeting	\$		
7th Tradition @ ASC	\$		
Literature	\$		
Other:	\$		
<b>Total Current Month Receipts to Date:</b>	<b>\$ 380.13</b>		
<b>Current Month Expenses:</b>			
Freedom Voice / PR Phone line-December 2021 (ACH)		\$ 35.26	
Zoom Room-January-Reimb Adrienne		\$ 14.99	
Sonoma County Fair-Vets Bldg Use Fee-January transferred to Feb		\$ -	
NCRSO-H & I Literature		\$ 505.13	
NCRSO-Meeting Literature		\$ 627.08	
ASC: Lombardi Properties/February Rent-Area Office		\$ 730.00	
PG&E-December		\$ 42.33	
Receipts/Invoices presented at Area Service Meeting	1	\$	
<b>Total Current Month Expenses to Date</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$ 1,954.79</b>	
<b>Balance as of January 20, 2021</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>\$ 4,748.81</b>
Less Prudent Reserve			\$ (6,535.00)
Insurance Deductible (Encumbered)			\$ (500.00)
Funds Held for Meeting (Returned to the meeting)			\$ -
<b>Working Balance (Contribution to NCRSC)</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>\$ (2,286.19)</b>



**Is a meeting that is reading literature other than approved NA literature an NA meeting?**

No. Why not?

From *The Group Booklet* (p.10):

*"What kinds of literature should we use? NA World Services produces a number of different kinds of publications. However, only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Selections from NA-approved books and pamphlets are usually read at the beginning of an NA meeting, and some meetings use them as the core of their format. NA-approved literature represents the widest range of recovery in Narcotics Anonymous."*

**'Only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings'. But what if the literature is similar to NA literature or was written by members of NA—is there some ambiguity about this?**

No. The answer is clear.

A group of people that meet and read from unapproved NA literature does not constitute an NA meeting. There is no ambiguity about what is—and what is not—NA approved literature. The literature is clearly and legally defined.

To better inform members that might be confused about this, NA World Services has published clarifying bulletins specific to this topic and a video that can be found in the announcements on the Sonoma County NA fellowship website.

**Can Narcotics Anonymous World Services tell us what we can and cannot use for literature at an NA meeting? Don't the groups express their voice to the service structure and not the other way around?**

This is a well documented discussion spanning decades, decided by the group conscience of the fellowship, and has even created legal controversy where the courts have intervened to reaffirm decisions made by NA as a whole.

*"The fellowship overwhelmingly voiced its conscience on these matters at WSC 1991, passing several motions including one "To re - affirm and ratify that the ownership of all of NA's intellectual and physical properties prepared in the past, and to be prepared into the future, is held by WSO, Inc., which holds such title in trust on behalf of the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as a whole, in accordance with the decisions of the World Service Conference" (67 yes, 9 no, 3 abstaining). This led to the fellowship's adoption of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (FIPT) in 1993." - Bulletin #35*

As recently as 2020 the courts have reaffirmed that NA World Services is legally responsible for NA's intellectual property (published literature, copyrights, etc).

*The Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (2020) Superior Court of California Los Angeles County Case # 20STPB00821*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GOK3DruyLLzqR9gsHz\\_Jxx52sLocllht](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GOK3DruyLLzqR9gsHz_Jxx52sLocllht)



The Court having taken the above captioned matter under submission on Monday, August 31, 2020 hereby rules as follows:

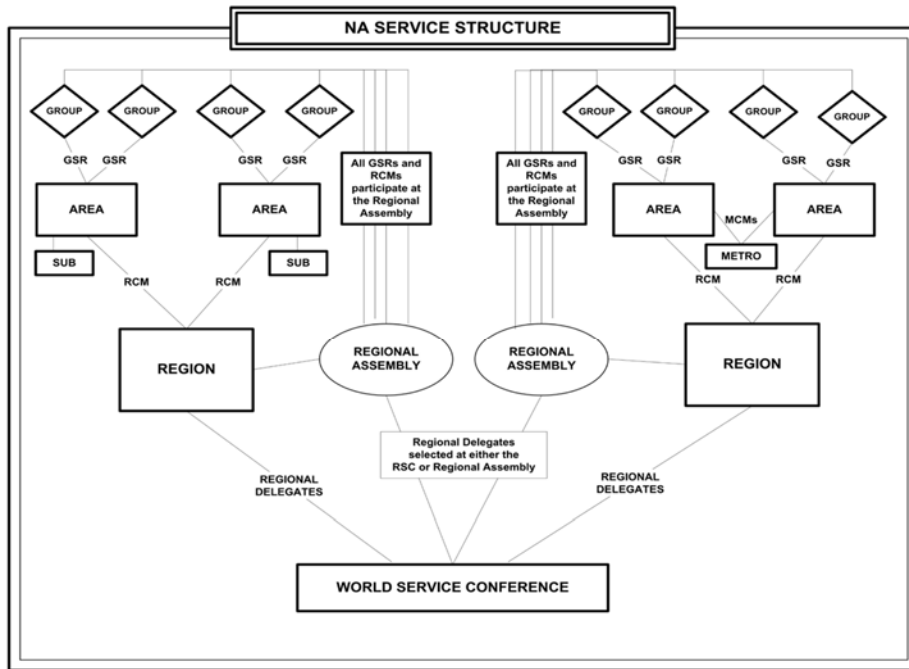
**RULING ON TRUSTEE'S DEMURRER**

Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. ("World Services") is the trustee of the Narcotics Anonymous Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (the "Trust"), which is a charitable trust that was established by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous ("the Fellowship"). The Trust's "object and purpose . . . is to hold and administer all recovery literature and other intellectual properties of the Fellowship . . . in a manner that will help [narcotics] addicts find recovery from the disease of addiction and carry that message of recovery to the addict who still suffers. . . ." The Trust designates the Fellowship "as a whole" as the Trust's beneficiary.

Having considered the parties' supplemental briefs, the Court is sustaining World Services' demurrer without leave to amend. When read as a whole, the language of the Trust clearly and unambiguously provides for just one, single Trustor. The Trust's terms are not reasonably susceptible to an interpretation that contemplates the existence of multiple Trustors with the power to revoke the Trust. Accordingly, the extrinsic evidence that ARNA submitted to support its interpretation of the Trust is inadmissible to alter or vary the terms of the Trust.

**How does NA World Services gather the fellowship's group conscience?**

Group conscience is carried by Group Representatives to Area, then representatives from Areas carry the group conscience to Region, then representatives from Regions carry the group conscience to the World Service Conference (WSC), and NA World Services is trusted with executing the decisions made by the group conscience at WSC.





**If NA World Services is responsible for executing the decisions from the fellowship's group conscience— what is the fellowship's stance on this specific matter?**

*Response from World Services* when asked specifically about this issue discussed at SCFNA:

“When considering the gray form (sometimes called the grey book), it is helpful to remember that this material has never been approved or even considered for approval by the NA Fellowship. It was a draft of compiled input from members involved with the initial development of our Basic Text. And in fact, as with most review drafts, there were significant changes to the draft based on input received, before the approval version was presented to the NA groups. It was never intended for distribution beyond that review and input process. It is substantially different from the book that was approved and became our Basic Text. Use of any drafts of NA literature in NA meetings is not in harmony with the Fellowship's guidance regarding what is appropriate for use in NA meetings, offered in *The Group Booklet*.”

*Bulletin 35 NA Copyrights and Literature*

“The fact is, the approval of the Sixth Edition Basic Text at the 2008 World Service Conference was a unanimous expression of consensus. The vote was followed by “hugs, tears, and a standing ovation” (WSC 2008 minutes). The Sixth Edition is the only approved edition of the Basic Text in English.”

“The World Service Office Board of Directors is entrusted with the responsibility for protecting the fellowship's physical and intellectual properties, including the Basic Text, and at the Board of Director's discretion shall take legal action to protect those rights against any and all persons who choose to infringe upon this literature trust.” ....“In a US federal court hearing, the primary individual responsible for publishing the hybridized [un-approved] Basic Text at that time agreed to stop.....”

**Is publishing and distributing the gray book legal?**

No. It is a violation of copyright law.

The courts have addressed this, and the injured parties to the violation are us—the worldwide fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. We have expressed through our group conscience that the funds we collect from literature sales are used to fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers. Practically speaking, we do not need to consider whether or not the use of unlawful materials that affect NA legally, financially, and spiritually are appropriate for NA use - they are not.

**What can I do about illicit publication of the Basic Text and other NA literature?**

Again, Bulletin #35 speaks to this:

“The only people who can really protect the fellowship's property are NA members and groups. Only our members and groups can effectively enforce the decisions made by the fellowship and put a stop to illicit distribution of NA literature. We are asking you not to participate in this sort of activity and not to condone it. Please help us protect NA's property and take a stand against its illegal production.”





“Any efforts by individuals or groups to reprint altered NA literature do not reflect the conscience of the NA Fellowship. The NA groups, as owners of NA’s copyrights, and NA World Services, as trustees in the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust, are partners in the effort to protect NA’s copyrights. We are asking that you embrace this partnership and remember that NA groups and members have the right and the responsibility to demand that those who would reprint or modify NA literature refrain from doing so. Personal recovery depends on NA unity; we must work together to safeguard the integrity of our life-saving literature.”

**What if I hear people announcing and/or distributing the ‘gray book’ in an NA meeting?**

Only NA related announcements should be made in NA meetings, announcing non-approved NA literature or non-NA meetings or events are not appropriate during an NA meeting.

If someone is announcing or distributing the ‘gray book’ in an NA meeting, kindly let them know it is not an NA related announcement. Per World Services Bulletin #35 “members have the right and the responsibility to demand that those who would reprint or modify NA literature refrain from doing so.” And “We are asking you not to participate in this sort of activity and not to condone it. Please help us protect NA’s property and take a stand against its illegal production.”

**What gives PR the ‘authority’ to remove a meeting from the schedule?**

The Third Concept of NA Service.

“The NA groups delegate to the service structure the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it”.

To expand on this, the publication *12 Concepts for NA Service* further states:

“When our groups delegate sufficient authority to our service structure, our groups need not be overcome with the demands of making every service decision at every level of service, and our fellowship’s primary purpose can be served to the fullest. With the Third Concept squarely in place, our groups are free to conduct recovery meetings and carry the NA message directly to the addict who still suffers, confident that the service structure they have created has the authority it needs to make the decisions involved in fulfilling its responsibilities.”

**Who delegated authority to the Public Relations Subcommittee?**

The group conscience of the Sonoma County Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. As documented in the SCFNA Guidelines Section 1 Functions, subsection I:

“To encourage and support a Public Relations (PR) Subcommittee, including a Phone line/Helpline, for the Sonoma County Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous in accordance with the 12 Traditions, and the 12 Concepts of Service of NA.”





### **What are the responsibilities delegated to PR?**

The operational guidelines of Public Relations as approved by you, the ASC, include the responsibilities to:

“The [PR] team will accomplish this [mission to carry the message to the addict who still suffers] by coordinating the services we provide to maximize our ability to fulfill our primary purpose. To carry the NA message of recovery in accordance with the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts of Narcotics Anonymous.”

In addition to serving in accordance with the 12 Traditions, the responsibilities delegated to PR include:

- “To be the resource and coordinating body for all SCFASC Public Relations efforts, assisting with all PR functions upon request.”;
- “Operating and maintaining an area website.”;
- “Update the area schedule on a regular basis as required by the team.”;
- “Keep within the NA Traditions, Concepts, and guidelines and consider recommendations from the WSO.”;
- “Be Vigilant. Ensure that a clear message of recovery in NA is always shared with the public.”

PR has been delegated the responsibility and authority per 3<sup>rd</sup> concept to maintain the area schedule and website in accordance with the 12 traditions, guidelines and recommendations from the WSO. Since our schedules and website are public facing it clearly falls under the purview of Public Relations.

### **What was discussed at PR when they decided to remove the ‘gray book’ meeting from the schedule?**

It was a very simple and unanimous discussion at the Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 Public Relations meeting. The format of the meeting in question was to use non-NA approved literature and therefore is not an NA meeting. Rather than immediately removing the group from the schedule, PR wanted to notify the group that they are not following NA traditions by using unapproved literature and will be removed from the schedule, in case they wanted to adjust their format to use approved NA literature. The GSR of the group was notified by a member of PR, who then brought this information to the group. The group did not adjust the format and subsequently the meeting was removed from the schedule.

### **What if they change the format to a “Historical NA Literature study” could it be in the schedule then?**

No. A historical NA Literature study is not considered a Narcotics Anonymous recovery meeting, as outlined above, “only NA-approved literature is appropriate for reading in Narcotics Anonymous meetings”. Old versions of NA literature are still not considered ‘approved’ for use by a group at a recovery meeting per the Group Booklet and the group conscience at WSC (see Bulletin #35) when this specific topic was brought for vote. Further, per the WSO response “the gray form (sometimes called the grey book).....has never been approved or even considered for approval by the NA Fellowship”

### **If a Historical NA Literature Study is not a recovery meeting, could it still be part of NA as an event or other type of NA group/committee?**

Even if somehow the fellowship sought to allow a ‘gray book’ format in the form of a subcommittee, educational event, the same violation of traditions exist. The text in question and those who seek to promote it have created substantial legal turmoil and dis-unity within varying fellowships in order to



utilize and perpetuate a non-NA cause that has long been settled (Tradition 1). Our traditions are created to protect us from internal and external controversies by focusing on our common welfare. Our common welfare means unity. This is achieved through group conscience and time and again, our worldwide fellowship's decision has been to only use approved NA literature (Tradition 2).

In addition, any NA funds used to copy or distribute the 'gray book' for study at such an event or committee would be benefiting those who are illicitly reproducing such books, which is essentially shooting ourselves in the foot (Tradition 4). As NA groups we own the copyright, yet we would be providing our fellowship funds to those that we sought legal action against, or to defend from, to protect those copyrights. We cannot allow fellowship funds to be diverted to outside endeavors by those who seek to distribute illicit copies under the name 'Narcotics Anonymous' (Tradition 7). If we do not use our fellowships funds to cover the cost of the books for study then we would not be self-supporting thus again contradictory to the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition.

Finally. A group which uses the 'gray book' as it's meeting format cannot re-brand their intentions by calling it something else. Neither attempts fit within the legal, practical, or spiritual structure of Narcotics Anonymous.

**In conclusion:**

It is very clear that the SCFNA PR subcommittee has the authority to manage the schedule in accordance with Traditions and Concepts. The focus should not be on whether or not Public Relations has the authority to fulfill their assigned responsibilities, but rather on how a group is claiming to be a Narcotics Anonymous meeting while acting in opposition to the 12 traditions and the copyright that we hold on NA literature, therefore creating division (Tradition 1), circumventing the group conscience (Tradition 2), and diverting group funds (Tradition 7) to support the illicit production of literature in direct opposition to our fellowships group conscience and NA as a whole (Tradition 4).

Simply put our 12 Traditions are NOT negotiable. We keep what we have only with vigilance. Our personal recovery depends on NA unity. Use of un-approved NA literature has been a decades long controversy sowing division amongst members, and jeopardizing our fellowship's unity and therefore our individual members' personal recovery.