



SacFNA-ASC · P.O. Box 160343 · Sacramento, CA 95816 · sacfna.org

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Dear NA Members in the American River Area,

Last April, the Sacramento Fellowship Area Service Committee (ASC) determined that our shared primary purpose might be best fulfilled by pooling financial and human resources in providing three services: the helpline, a schedule, and H & I work. Since that time, the Sac Fellowship Area Service Committee has sent representatives, as requested, to participate in American River's ad hoc committee on shared services, sent liaisons to American River (AR) subcommittee meetings, made monthly donations to the AR-ASC, and Sac Fellowship members have continued to serve as volunteers on the NA helpline, in H & I meetings, and done other NA service through American River's subcommittees. All the while, we have patiently waited for God's will regarding a way forward to be revealed.

Although ARASC created the ad hoc committee that laid out specific options and recommendations regarding sharing or coordinating services, no decision on whether or not the American River Area as a whole is interested in officially sharing the helpline, a schedule, or H & I has been forthcoming. Of course, no decision is still a decision—to continue on as in the past. Sometimes, that's the right decision. Maintaining the status quo, however, has meant that the two Areas are, in fact, sharing services, but we're doing so without changes in our business practices to ensure accountability and financial responsibility. This may be the one point on which we can all agree: *We need to determine which services, if any, we intend to share and establish business practices that allow for the kind of accountability and prudent use of both funds and human resources that groups on both sides of the river expect and deserve.*

Spiritual principles and common sense call on us to manage our resources—human and financial—responsibly. We, therefore, respectfully ask you to consider the following:

- **NA Helpline:** The helpline is often the still-suffering addict's first contact with NA, so many Sac Fellowship members have continued volunteering in order to keep this vital service going strong. Currently, however, Sac Fellowship has no formal say about the helpline's operation. A rumor (untrue) that ARANA was getting rid of the 800 number caused a bit of panic at Sac Fellowship's October ASC. This illustrated to us why we need to establish the helpline as a cooperative effort with accountability to both Areas. If the American River Area is unwilling to establish the helpline as a cooperative effort, the Sacramento Fellowship will need to initiate a second helpline. Such duplication would cause confusion on the part of the still-suffering addict and would be a waste of NA resources as two Areas struggle to both pay monthly fees and staff two helplines 24/7. ***Won't you consider formalizing the helpline as a shared service with accountability to and support from both ASCs?***

- **Schedule:** Meeting directories are important for members, potential members, and public relations efforts alike. We are sincerely grateful that AR has continued to list Sacramento Fellowship meetings in its schedule and allowed us to purchase them at cost. However, we feel there must be a better way. The meetings listed in what's currently published as the *American River Area Meeting Directory* include a substantial number of meetings from both Sierra Foothills and Sacramento Fellowship. ***Won't you consider collaborating to publish a Narcotics Anonymous meeting directory for the greater Sacramento area and Yolo County that reflects NA unity?***
- **H & I:** Many addicts first learn of NA when they're locked up. Sacramento Fellowship's ASC believes that it would be unwise to split up American River's effective H & I subcommittee team; the subcommittee agrees. We do not wish to diminish the delivery of H & I services and we recognize that there is a limited leadership base within either one of our Areas on its own. What's more, an arrest anywhere in Sacramento County leads to the downtown jail, a mental breakdown to Sac County Mental Health – both are within Sacramento Fellowship's geographic boundaries but serve addicts from around the county. Likewise in Yolo County, where the Woodland jail and juvenile hall serve the whole county including Davis and West Sacramento. ***Won't you consider allowing one subcommittee to serve all of Yolo County and the greater Sacramento region with accountability to and support from both ASCs?***

Thank you for any thought, prayer, discussion, or literature study you do regarding our shared dilemma. We are encouraged to hear that **the H & I subcommittee is engaged in drafting a recommendation and preparing to suggest related guideline changes. We hope you will give them the time necessary to fully form their proposal. If you agree that our primary purpose would best be served with one helpline and one schedule, perhaps you could make your will known.**

You may not have agreed with how the Sacramento Fellowship started, but the fact is that two Areas now exist in Sacramento and Yolo counties. We hope you agree that open dialog on these matters will help us determine the most effective way to fulfill our primary purpose and practice unity.

In loving service to Narcotics Anonymous,

The Sacramento Fellowship Admin Team

The Basic Text reminds us:

We must always remember that as individual members, groups and service committees, we are not and should never be in competition with each other. We work separately and together to help the newcomer and for our common good. We have learned, painfully, that internal strife cripples our Fellowship; it prevents us from providing the services necessary for growth.

NA Basic Text, page xii