

San Francisco Public Relations (SFPR) Cooperates with SF Public Library

Good afternoon, my name is Scott and I am an alcoholic. I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous and serve on the San Francisco Public Relations (SFPR) committee. This service committee – known elsewhere as PI/CPC (Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community) – is an autonomous committee of the [San Francisco and Marin Intergroup](#) of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Our committee does many activities as public and professional outreach for Alcoholics Anonymous, including presentations in jails and to medical groups. We also do presentations for the general public, including events at the San Francisco Main Library.

It is a common fact that the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (“The Big Book”) is the [most stolen book](#) from the library. About a year ago, our committee approached the library in the spirit of co-operation to contribute A.A. literature to meet this public need. Since then we have contributed Big Books, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other A.A. World Services literature in English, as well as global language translations, to circulate among their patrons.

Our [Central Office](#) donated hundreds of A.A. pamphlets to library patrons, including over 1000 inmates in the SF County Jails who participate in the library’s [re-entry program](#). The San Francisco A.A. meeting schedule is so popular that we send a PDF of the schedule to the library, and they print hundreds of copies for their patrons.

About the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL)

In 2009, [San Francisco Public Library](#) was the first library in the world to have a full-time social worker. There is now a team of three social workers. Many US cities and other countries such as Canada, Australia and Sweden have copied SFPL programs.

The SFPL provides support to children, teens, youth and seniors. The library offers services to all religions, ethnic or national backgrounds.

The staff provides information, support and referral for the community needs including legal/justice, housing and recovery. There is a very large homeless population using the library. For these people the SFPR committee has developed a locally-produced pamphlet “A.A. for the Alcoholic without Housing”.

In April the library established a recovery bookcase to give away free recovery books including the Big Book. Since April over 3,200 books have been given away at the main library and three branches. The bookshelf is replenished every six weeks. SFPL was the first public library in the country to give away these books.

February 21, 2024
Scott B. San Francisco, CA
SFPR Committee Member