

## Mid-Southern California Delegate Area 09

Area Service Committee Minutes

Sunday, February 10, 2008

**Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am** by Chairperson Jason S. He opened with the serenity prayer.

### **Readings:**

**Concepts, Martin, Alex, A.S.C. Statement of Purpose and Membership Sharon, Marcia**

Approval of December 2007 ASC Minutes were approved with minor acceptations.

### **Delegate's Report**– Joe B. Hello everyone;

- Bruce has informed me that he has received communication from New York informing him that the Pacific regional Forum in Torrance for 2010 is back on.
- I submitted our Area's Archives Committee Proposal to New York, I was contacted later by the Conference Coordinator, he told me that this is already on the Agenda for the conference but our Proposal will be added to the background material.
- I have received a letter from Valerie O'N. requesting our area send a list of all of our ASL interpreted meetings. She is hopping to use this information to help those that call New York looking to find ASL meetings within our Area.
- I was pleasantly surprised to receive my correspondence from the grapevine this last week. In it I received a summery of this month's La Vina. One of the title stories is "We are not a Group of Bad Tempered People." The story, from Puerto Rico, tells of how members play guitar and fellowship before and after the meetings. There was also a story about how they are using Public Information to carry the message in Peru using a radio show called "Anonymous Alcoholics Hour". I have a copy of La Vina and that Grapevine for anyone who has never seen one or read one or just plain wants one.
- I have been asked to collect stories on remote communities to submit to the Remote Communities Newsletter. The definition of remote community is generally understood to be "any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture or geography".
- I have not as yet received the final conference agenda items; we have posted on our web site [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org) copies (in English and Spanish) of the preliminary conference agenda items. I have also brought copies today (in English and Spanish) and have left them on the back table.

### **Officers Report :**

**Alt. Delegate: Mike M.** In the 41 days since I've took office, I've visited Dist. 1 and Dist. 10. In giving the presentation about the upcoming Conference for our Delegate at Dist. 10 I was asked a lot of questions. For Instance, "When do we get something our groups will be interested in?" Part of my own answer was along with the agenda items, we need to talk about the structure so our groups can understand how the Conference works; from the GSR, to the District and Area, our Delegate and on to the General Service Conference, the group conscience flows. We also talked about the pre-conference workshop which Dist. 10 will be hosting and it is my great privilege to announce we'll be having a currently serving Trustee speaking. I hope we will have the best informed of the 93 delegates of the conference.

**Treasurer: Linda H.** INCOME FOR JANUARY = \$7,362.47(including end of December- this includes food kitty and convention donations including AOCAPAA)

Panel 58 Area Officers had (what I'll lovingly call) our first Panel Area Officers Meeting and since there was no motion, second, discussion, questions or voice vote, it seemed to be more of a Panel 58 Area Officers discussion, in this writer's opinion.

The expenses, I did not get to yet, but they outweigh the income, I believe.

As you know, we have a new committee, AREA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE-which has four sub-committees. Their first function is to change AREA COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE to replace NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE. Then they will hopefully adhere to the MSCA Guidelines and submit all guidelines to the Area Officers for recommendation & review. No one Committee can interfere with another Committee's Guidelines.

I want to do my job as MSCA 09 Treasurer and unlike any other Area that I have visited in the State of California, Area 09 seems to listen too much to those who have been here a really long time. Things have changed.

Hopefully, we will be unified as an Area from here until our two year term is up. In Unity & Service, Linda H., MSCA 09 Treasurer

**Registrar: Cesar F.** It's really a pleasure to be in this beautiful town of Indio. Also I am a privileged guy as I get to serve you as your Area Registrar. Last month I received a lot of questions from the District Registrars regarding the group forms, group registration, GSR packets and the Western Directory, and I didn't have any answers. One registrar from a District informed me that they have some groups that do not belong to their District. Please write the name of any Groups like this with their group service number and hand it too me and I will make sure the corrections are made. Now with this new program, the fellowship and new vision; I am capable of doing it in my home using the service group number. I can manipulate all that information from my computer. I was telling my fellow officers that I was expecting a list of a hundred forms from you guys we are supposed to have 1800 groups here in Mid-Southern California and so far I have only received 60. I don't know what happened to the rest. I'm still waiting for you guys. And also the group update forms will be mailed to me sometime this month. This as far as I know will be big and we will have a very short time to the changes. The deadline for the change is April 15<sup>th</sup>. As soon as I get them I will try to find you and deliver these to you and make sure you look at them. You need to make sure you have the correct mtg. times and so forth so the changes can be posted to the Western Directory. I also visited some Districts but for some reason I didn't note the districts; next month I will make sure to write down to add to my report. I was at the registration table and we have 146 in attendance today. Thank you so much.

**Secretary: Ruth D.** We are missing roster info for Dist. 19. Hard copies of the roster will be available next month for DCMC's, Committee Chairs and Area Officers. Please turn in your Committee reports after your committee meets today or e-mail/snail-mail them to me? As for the sign in sheets on the literature table, could everyone please sign in ONLY once and in your proper Districts.

**Area Chair: Jason S.** During the first 41 days of Panel 58 we've had many events already. We had the January Assembly and I really want to congratulate you on all the work that was done at the Assembly. In addition to electing and confirming all the Standing Committees Chairs, you were also able to complete 12 items of business. The Standing Committee Chair orientation was a great success and the DCMC orientation will be March 29<sup>th</sup> at the archives in Riverside; if you are a new DCMC or DCM please do not leave today without a flyer. There is another flyer on the website for the DCMC Orientation on March 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be an opportunity to meet with other DCMCs and DCMs and area officers to discuss just how it is that we can better help and assist the Districts and just what it is that the Districts can do to assist the Area. One of the things we'd like to see happen in the next few years is that we would like to see an increase in GSRs and many Districts are gearing up with that goal in

mind also. In these 41 days I have also been able to visit District 18, where I saw lots of excitement and enthusiasm from their GSRs and District 6 as well is very active and enthusiastic: they are increasing in size and had 41 in attendance. All in all, I think the Districts are doing very well. I also want to thank everyone for the work at the Assembly. As we went through the work rather quickly, I wanted to give some feed back that I got from the Area Assembly. There are many things that are difficult when you're new and one of the things I'd like to talk about today is that we have a few changes in the order of procedure for the agenda. We have given another half hour to the Delegate Sharing Session and we have moved the Committee Meetings to after lunch. Now the order after the Delegate Sharing Session is: Area Business, Committee and District reports, lunch and then the Committee Meetings. Please give us any feed back you may have on how this works out for you - please let us know. Of the things we have done as Area Officers, one of the things that didn't go quite as smoothly as we might have liked is regarding the purchase of the sound equipment. So I have a statement I'd like to read at this point.

*After reviewing the Guidelines, Area Purchasing Policies & Procedures, Tradition 2 and Concept X, and speaking with many members of the Assembly, I would like to communicate the following:*

*In light of the recently completed purchase of replacement equipment for the Area Sound System, and in reviewing past purchases made during the terms of the three most recently serving Panels, I have come to realize that your Area Officers relied greatly on the assumption of precedent based on actions which, as it turns out, may have been outside of the Area Guidelines. I have been reminded that as your Area Chair, my duties include ensuring the health of the Area. Therefore, as your trusted servant, I offer my humble apology for action taken by me individually or as an Area Officer which was not within the current Guidelines, and despite conflicts between Guidelines and Policies and Procedures as they presently stand, I believe my responsibility is first and foremost to ensure that the Guidelines are always followed. Therefore, whatever the history of purchasing procedures by currently serving or past Area Officers, we ought not and will not repeat the same actions, which place us in conflict with the Guidelines and with other members.*

*At the January Assembly, I appointed an Ad Hoc committee to review our Guidelines and to make recommendations they deem desirable. I will now ask them specifically to review the purchasing policies and procedures as they now stand. There is inherent conflict between Committee guidelines, Area Guidelines and customary purchasing procedures, which we can now see clearly. Having now opened a forum for discussion on these policies and Guidelines, I look forward to moving on and learning from our experience.*

*Throughout all the rancor and discussion of the last month, one thing has become very clear to me. Each of us serves because of a great passion for Alcoholics Anonymous, and despite our various interpretations of procedures, we are spiritually united in wanting the best for our Area. But as Bill W. wrote, the good is often the enemy of the best. And since my best is the least I can do for Alcoholics Anonymous, I assure you that in the future, and to the best of my ability, due diligence will be taken to ensure that no action will be taken which is outside the Guidelines of the Area or that could be divisive in nature.*

*In Unity & Service*

**Jason S.**

*Area 09 Panel 58 Chair*

response to the statement read by Jason,

*Today I'm here representing the Communication Committee and Linda C. our Committee Chair who could not be here today. I would like to commend the board for the decision they made here today and say yes we will accept that equipment and we'll make a decision very quickly as to what should be done with it. Thank you Russ D.*

### New Business

First order of business is the resignation of the literature chair, Maggie R. We'd like to thank Maggie for her many years of commitment to General Service and regret that she is unable to fulfill this commitment at this time. In addition we have an open position of Newsletter Sub-Committee Chair and also for a Special Needs Chair. So if

anyone would be interested in standing for any of these committees contact the Area Officers.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Archives – Joseph H.**

1. Archives proposals for GSO Archive Committee to be a full standing committee support letter and background history.
2. 2008 Archives budget at the Jan. '08 Area Assembly
3. Pattie B. elected as Archives Committee.
4. Planning meeting for the 2008 open house (a 2 day event).
5. New tri fold archive flyer to be printed up.
6. Open House flyers located at table.
7. Archives co-chair (Yvonne B.) asking volunteers at the archives each sat.

Events: Joseph H. Archives chair participated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual CIP with a are archives display.

Charles k. area archivist presented archives display at the San Fernando valley AA convention on feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

16<sup>th</sup> Feb. - Open House planning meeting at 11am I'm encouraging Dist. Archivists to attend and have flyers. March 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am Archives Committee meets. Joseph H. Archive Chair to attend PRAASA 2008. Charles K. archives presentation at the High Desert AA convention (7-9 March 08). March 29<sup>th</sup> archives repository to host new DCMC orientation.

**Cooperation with the Elder Community Committee** – Rick H. (No Report)

**Cooperation with the Professional Community** – Michael M. (No Report)

**Communication Committee** – Linda C. (No Report)

**Convention Liaison** - Michael Mc.

Spoke with Jose A. the Spanish Co-Chair and informed him that Jason S. informed me that the outgoing Convention Liaison Chair has contacted him and that Jason would coordinate contact between the incoming and outgoing chair so that the committee materials could be handed over.

**Corrections** - Patrick C. (No Report)

**DCM School** – Scott R. (No Report)

**Finance** - Joseph M.

Has not met. Will be no committee meeting today. There will be no financial reports issued by the committee until access to the necessary data is supplied. Master password on cash receipts journal was changed.

**Grapevine** – Kimberli A.

We discussed activities that the committee members might be interested in doing this year. Including 3 plays I have been make aware of. I am asking the GVR's to get feed back from the districts and home groups on the following: 1. Does the Grapevine help your sobriety if so how? 2. What kinds of article to you like best or least? 3. What other sorts of articles or materials would you like to see?

As an aside, Don W. gave me some excellent suggestions on how to improve the structural integrity of the displays, thanks Don?

I would like to encourage everyone to subscribe and consider donating your past issues to your library, doctor's office, recovery home or other places where there is need or they might be useful or consider "sponsoring" a subscription for jail, institution, shelter or recovery home.

**La Viña** – Angela A. (No Report)

**GSR School** – John A. (No Report)

Only myself was in attendance apparently due to the new agenda timeline of events for the ASC. The ASC members and guests took the opportunity to go home after lunch.

**GSR School SPANISH** (No Report)

**Literature** - (No Report)

**Literature Spanish** – (No Report)

**Newsletter** – (No Report)

**Newsletter Spanish** (No Report)

**Public Information** – Kay M.

Committee Highlights - Despite that there were only 3 actual P.I. committee members at the meeting, there were about 15 people in attendance, the majority from the Spanish Community and in fact, there was only my self and one other person who were not Spanish speaking. I, unfortunately, was not prepared for this ignorantly enough and therefore did not have my agenda or the A.A. P.I. Guideline in Spanish. I then learned that I could utilize the area translator to get documents translated for future meetings. Despite this, there was a great deal of interest and questions about what P.I. does and how those in attendance could serve in their communities to insure that the message gets carried. Offers of service were given by both my self and Francisco D., Area Co-Chair from District 23 to the other Districts present for the meeting.

As the P.I. Chair, I too gained a great deal from our meeting and I continue to look forward to serving Area 9.

**Public Information Spanish** - (No Report)

**Registrar – David T.**

Updating forms for: Current Contacts for Meetings & How to do to meetings (what to do) talk to secretary of meeting show up early. What to do with completed forms? Send them to GSO or Cesar. All information must be on form. Need list of all meetings in district (Cesar will get ) prospect of combing meetings with DCMC's registration. Registrar presentation and DCM School. Registration chair will meet with DCM chair to discuss a Registrar Presentation about upcoming update forms and how to handle them.

**Special Needs** - (No Report)

**Treatment Facilities** – Al F. (No Report)

## **District Reports**

### **District 2**

Nothing to report. Upcoming Events: May 4-dist. Report back from delegate. Districts 1,2,3, and 4.

### **District 5**

We're grateful to have hosted the assembly (last month) and we'd like to thank everyone involved. We understand it was a little small in there and we also understand it may be necessary to get a larger place in the future or a place without tables like this place. 13 of 19 service positions are filled. Unfortunately we may be losing our CPC person. We do have a fair amount of participation. On the other hand out of 12 DCM positions we have 4 that are filled. That's something we need to work on. Our meeting is this Thursday and we will be motioning to add a CEC Committee. In April the Delegate will visit our district.

### **District 6**

We have had great participation. We had 6 new GSR's at our last meeting. We have lots of good stuff going on, Nancy will be coming out to our district as a former delegate and in April we have some more former delegates visit the district.

### **District 7**

Only two in attendance our meeting is this next week. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at PRAASA.

### **District 8**

Our last District meeting had one of our largest turnouts in years. We had our elections for Committee Chairs and further request for DCM position in our sub-district for the Moreno Valley area. Almost all committee chairs filled, still no DCM for Moreno valley. Our treasurer has resigned and we will have a new election this month to fill the vacancy.

### **District 9**

I have ten District Members here today. I'd like to thank all of them for showing up at 8 o'clock for helping out, thank you very much. We have four new GSRs, most of our committee chairs have been filled, we're still looking for a treasurer. We have four members that will be attending PRAASA and we are very excited about that.

#### **District 10**

We have 5 members here today we are having some type of difficulty filling our committee chairs but we are enthusiastic and committed so hopefully that will improve. I want to thank Mike for coming out and talking to our district we appreciated that.

#### **District 11**

DCMC voted to have expenses paid by Dist. to go to PRAASA. Budget tabled until next month. Secretary, treasurer and DCMC to meet at bank of America. 2-10 to add signatures to checks new GSR Phil will also be on convention committee. 1<sup>st</sup>. meeting 2/14/08 for inland empire convention Jay will chair next district meeting. Amber will be acting secretary for next meeting as respective people will be at PRAASA.

#### **District 14**

We had four district members in attendance today. We have one person going to PRAASA, that would be me. We are currently trying to fill our remaining committee chairs. We are going to a lot of meetings and talking up the GSR gig, hopefully we will be acquiring more GSR's.

#### **District 17**

We had our first meeting under the new "rule". We filled 6 out of 10 committee chair positions. There are two we plan on filling this Tuesday at our dist. Mtg. We have two members going to PRAASA and possibly four. Also we are hosting the area ASC next month in Sun City, we have that worked out. So we will see you there.

#### **District 18**

We had a great turn out for our first mtg. at our new location. We made a number of changes on the website, it now has all the DCMs and chairs and open positions listed. We also have created some other positions to try to get some more participation. We're going to try real hard to adhere to the suggested guidelines within the GSR pamphlet of having a minimum of two years of continuous sobriety to be a GSR. It seems that a number of them that have come in and come out and it takes a little while to get firm in your resolve of sobriety to maintain your commitment. We still have two or three committee chair positions that need to be filled. A real big item that we were real happy about was that we were able to have our chair and alt. delegate come to our meeting and both address our group. The feed back I got from our group was they were really glad to see the active participation. We also had a member, GSR from the Farsi group and that was.....one of our trustees delivered them their first big book in their language. I also attended their mtg and they are real happy to have us embrace them. One thing I'd like to find out is how to have better coordination between our area secretary and our registrar to find out which groups are actually registered, we have 200 mtgs in Irvine and Costa mesa and numerous groups that are not represented, I'm not able to stay on top of our current secretary and registrar to receive that information on a regular basis. But I'd like to have access to that information if there is a way to harmoniously integrate that, thank you.

#### **District 19**

We are going to put together a committee and split them up to help out and visit groups that do not participate or have a rep. Starting a new GSR school at dist. Level. We will be having an information table at our upcoming high desert convention in an effort to attract more groups to general service.

#### **District 21**

The district cordially sends regards to all the alcoholics and we hope you are happy, joyous and free. District 21 is doing well and still meeting 3 times per month; the first, second and fourth Wednesday at our district location. We are now promoting and encouraging the GSR's to look at the preliminary agenda items so that the groups will give us their feed back. We are also updating our group roster because some groups have move to new locations. We also encourage the groups to send their GSR's

to the District. We had asked for volunteers for our district committees and filled most of the vacant positions but we're unable to fill the P.I. chair position. Everything else is going well with us and we have four members of our district going to Praasa. Compañeros

### **District 22**

Good morning everyone my name is Juan C; I am an alcoholic, and the DCMC for district 22. I hope you are all doing well. District 22 has a Twelve Step Committee, a La Viña Committee and we also have volunteers for the P.I. committee. We meet every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Avenue 44 and Jackson in the city of Indio. We do group visitation twice a week in order to promote service and the 7th. Tradition. In addition, we attend all the group invitations to speak on specific topics. Today we are happy to be here with you and we are learning all that we are able by the grace of a Higher Power. We hope you have a safe trip home and have a happy 24 hours. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. JUAN C. DCMC DISTRICT 22 I LOVE YOU GUYS

### **District 23**

Our dist. meets 4 Fridays a month; we visit 2 groups per week and attend group invitations to speak on specific topics. There are 12 of us present today and we have new GSR's

New GSR's we have; Apolinar I. (Salvation & Sobriety), Marcos from - Hispanic East Riverside, Mario E. - (nuevos horizontes) New Horizons, Mario R- (Life's Hope) la Esperanza de vivir, and Juan C. - Welcome (Bienvenidos)

PI: José L., CCP; Saúl La V., we have no chair for the newsletter, Victor; Treasurer,

We visited D-25 in the month of Jan. all 4 Mondays to show our support, experience, strength and hope, in a book study meeting we talked about: preliminary agenda items for the 2008 Conference. As was suggested by our delegate Joe B. in his Jan. 13th report, we gave it to the GSR's to take back to their home groups; D-23 got a lot out of it. We have a P.O box for D-23 Area 09, MSCA P.O box 70818 RIVERSIDE, CA 92513. We have a few members that are eager to attend Praasa. D-23 will take a special collection in order to support our GSR's with expenses. This is my first report as DCMC for District 23. Thanks you for allowing me to serve. Thanks to the members of my district for attending this area service committee meeting. Reynaldo DCMC for D-23 & Alternate Antonio

### **District 24**

Our dist. meets on Tuesdays every week, we also visit two groups per week wither they have a GSR or not. We talk about service work and the 7th. Tradition. We are still working on getting committee chair for our district. In addition, we are updating our district guidelines. There are 16 of us here today and we have several people that want to attend Praasa. We have new group that just formed called; peace and honesty and that makes 20 groups total for our district. We have an average attendance of 12 GSR's. Thank you and God Bless you ELOY C. District 24 DCMC

### **District 30**

We have new meeting location in Yucca Valley. We have a new committee, a combination of cpc and pi, it's a new committee for us. We combined these two and it is the only active committee we have. We also formed a committee to deal with the Foro, we are working with dist 22. we are lucky enough to have a new alt. DCMC, Carlos V. who is bilingual and can help translate and coordinate with the Spanish speaking district, he is in charge of that committee. I will be at PRAASA and have been partially funded as well. We also have a group in our district that funded its GSR to go to PRAASA.

### **Recap of actions.**

No Actions.

THE ASC ADJOURNED at

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, And for that, I am responsible."

Panel 58 Secretary--Ruth D.