

# The Mid Southern California Area 9

# Newsletter

The Monthly General Service Newsletter for Area 9 of the General Service Conference

P.O.Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619-1446

[www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

August 2006

MSCA Area 9 includes all AA groups in the counties of Los Angeles (South of Rosecrans Ave.), San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange.

## Pacific Regional Forum

By Joe B

Thank you Mid Southern California Area 9; for sending me to Seattle for the Pacific Regional Forum.

I was able to talk with a lot of different people about some of the agenda topics and a few other things that we are discussing at our Area. It always helps me understand better when there are different opinions, and seeing ways that other Areas do things

I had a chance to sit with Leonard Blumenthal and Jeanne Woodford and discussed what their jobs involve, and in the process, learned quite a few things about Class A trustees.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Greg M. regarding a concern that I have about our Area, He is a most remarkable fellow, and was able to help me a lot. (Ask me)

There was an archives presentation with Bill's sharing, that just knocked my socks off and afterwards I asked Amy if she would e-mail me the PowerPoint presentation so I would be able to share with everyone in our area. She told me that she would but it wouldn't

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## Experiencing the Regional Forum 2006

This was the second time I went to a Pacific Regional Forum and the experience was way different than the first time. I noticed that service can be done one way or another way, and also the way other areas do service, as an example the way an area combines the Grapevine and La Viña and the great success they had: Where they sold 5 Grapevines and 2 La Viñas, now they sell 15 Grapevines and 12 La Viñas.

Something that really surprised me was the roundtable we had on Chanting in AA. I notice that we have this situation at a national level and that the only way to reduce this is informing the groups what AA does and doesn't do to reach the alcoholic that still suffers, and to be aware that this is our only purpose.

Another thing that I experienced was sadness, and this was because of the lack of participation of alcoholics from our Area. Hope I can share more with you in the future.

Thank you for letting me serve. Oscar G, MSCA 09 Secretary

## Delegate's Corner

By the time this report ends up in the August Newsletter I will have finished all the District Conference reports, I would again give my thanks to all the DCMCs and their Committees in making these as easy on yours truly. A special shout out to Jesus O and Cesar F in helping with translation at the Spanish speaking Districts.

The rest of this report will be dedicated to the 2 forums that I have had the honor to attend since the May Assembly. The first one was held May 20-21 on the Morongo Reservation in Banning. It was attended by 251 people with about 70% of them members with Native American background. This was so interesting to experience the culture and love of our Native American AA's and hear their stories and concerns in helping the still suffering drunk on our reservations all over the USA and Canada. It was eye-opening for me because I had heard of the horrors caused by alcoholism with these members but to hear their stories first hand really put it in perspective. There is lots for us to do in this arena of reaching out to our fellow Native American alcoholics, but I believe this forum was a step in the right direction. I am grateful for our GSO staff and the other Trusted Servants who put in long hours of work to put on a very inclusive program. The sharing was very moving. However, the highlight was on Saturday night when the English speaking members including myself participated in the Social POW-WOW. To say that this was a blending of cultures is an understatement: We surely got more out of it than we put in. What a wonderful thing to view a true example of love and service. For more details, view the report from this event which is on our Website [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org). Thanks again to AA and my God for the privilege to attend this Special Forum

Then in late June I boarded that plane for a trip to the great Northwest, Seattle Washington for the Regional Forum held June 23rd thru June 25th. Arriving on Thursday I was able to spend a little time sharing with my friend Valerie O who has the assignment of the Regional Forums at GSO. She is a true example of a trusted servant with a friendly ear to listen and a kind word with always having the suffering drunk as her sole focus. We shared about the Special forum and how successful it had been.

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

by Mike M

I have seen the effect of our seventh tradition and amazed by it. To refresh your memory this is the one that states: "The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority." If we think in terms of our group this means paying for the room where we meet, the coffee, the literature and supplies. Some groups take in a lot of money and some just manage to pay the bills. I receive contributions every week from groups that understand that the seventh tradition is more than donuts. Those coins and dollars you put into the basket make possible twelve step calls around the world. Are we as a fellowship fully self-supporting thru our own contributions? Well how much does a Big Book cost? Now you're thinking what does one have to do with the other? The cost of services that is not covered by group donations (about 50%) is paid for with profits from our publications like the Big Book. It costs the General Service Office about \$133 per year/per group for services.

If we really want to be fully self supporting we need to either cut back on services or put more in. For years I've seen members who say they are eternally grateful to AA put only a dollar or less in the basket just like it was still 1950. I started putting in 2 dollars a few years ago into every meeting I'm at but I realize that even that is quite inadequate for what I've been given. The seventh tradition begins and ends with us. What am I going to do to make sure the hand of AA is there like it was for me.

Please take some time to read our excellent literature on the subject, like F3 "Self Support" or F96 "Memo to the Treasurer" available for free at your local central office. Some groups have dinners or events to increase funds to their groups. It is up to each group to determine if this is within our traditions or not. Some groups always end up with "left over" seventh tradition funds and here again the group needs to determine what is "prudent" to carry the message.

As an area treasurer one message the seventh tradition can send is how we spend it. Most times being self-supporting means sacrifice and sometimes it means giving what you have to give. Whatever the size of your

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## ...7<sup>th</sup> Tradition *(continued from col. 1)*

contribution we are grateful and here to serve all of Mid-Southern California groups in any way we can. If you need information about your area or financial information such as how to start a bank account for your group contact us. We are here to serve you and your group in any way we can.

Thanks, Mike M. Treasurer@MSCA09AA.ORG

## ...Pacific Regional Forum *(continued from p.1, col 1)*

by Joe B

include the voice of bill W. Apparently there are a few things that are needed to be worked out before they can release that stuff. So I asked her to send the whole presentation when it becomes available. I will be sure to let you all know when that happens.

One of the more interesting things I heard that weekend; concerned the Alaskan Delegate. You see he was unable to attend and the alternate delegate had to come instead. The reason Rick was unable to be there was because, a bear broke into his home and he had to stay to make sure he did not come back. (Do have bears in MSCA?) I also won a buck from a fellow MSCA'er on a bet we had regarding another delegate's report.

All in all I had a wonderful trip was able to spend the weekend with some really amazing people, I think I learned more and was able to charge up those old AA service batteries again. Gratitude is the heart's memory.

And please; ask me about the Grapevine and La Viña. I have some really superior stuff to share about that!

## Sleepless in Seattle

Pacific Regional Forum was very educational! As usual, I got to see the differences in the Pacific Region Areas. Bruce and I were out of town greeters to some of the GSO staff; which is always fun!

Registration was on Friday, with many talks & questions to follow. Although I had already met Madelyn P. our new Pacific Region Trustee, she is hands on, likeable and knows exactly how to be a Pacific Regional Trustee. Talks from our wonderful Chairman of the Board, Leonard Blumenthal, Jeannie Wolford, Amy (our new Archivist) were a breath of fresh air for this Alcoholic. They were all asked why they chose to serve as Class A Trustees and their answers were quite emotional for me.

I also heard a wonderful talk from our General Service Trustee who serves as Chair of the A.A.W.S. Board, Paul C. from Area 08. Dorothy W., Trustee at Large – U.S. and of course Amy (our non-alcoholic Archivist).

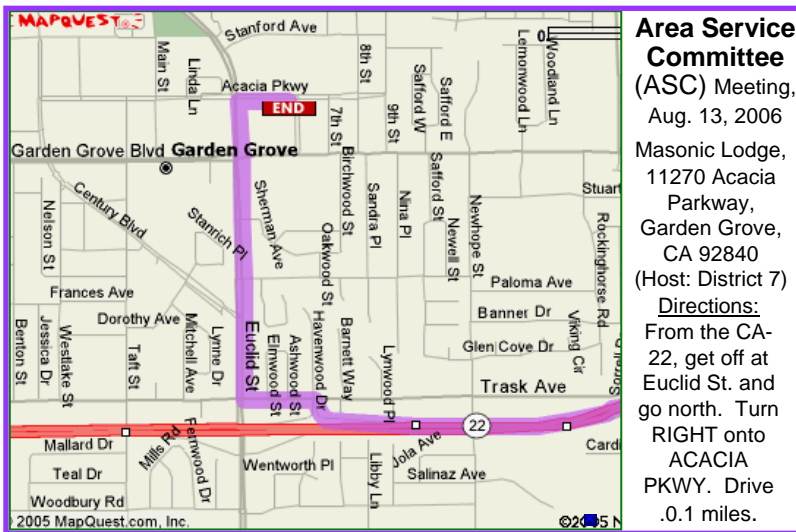
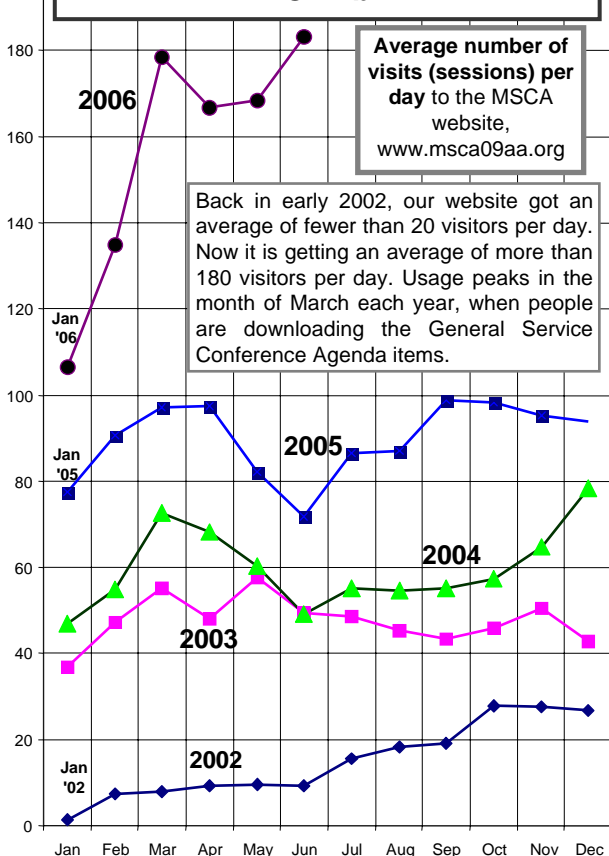
Then there was socializing and I won't bore you with that.

Workshops soon followed and the two I attended were good and Chanting & Rituals was great!

The fellowship as always remains strong and healthy and I hope it always will.

Thru love & service, Linda H, MSCA 9 Public Information Chair

## Website Usage continues to Climb



**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting,**  
 Aug. 13, 2006  
 Masonic Lodge,  
 11270 Acacia Parkway,  
 Garden Grove, CA 92840  
 (Host: District 7)  
**Directions:**  
 From the CA-22, get off at Euclid St. and go north. Turn RIGHT onto ACACIA PKWY. Drive .01 miles.

## Concept VIII (long form)

VIII The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

## Tradition 8 (long form)

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

## Delegate's Corner ...continued from page 1, col. 2

As other members from Area 9 arrived, Linda and I made it a point to greet them and welcome them to Seattle. On Friday we prepared for the opening on Friday night where we heard opening remarks from the Chairperson, Leonard Blumenthal, what a gracious example of a trustee. This was followed by presentations by Madeleine P on the role of the regional trustee. Then we had talks on the roles of the Trustee-at-Large/US and the role of the Class A Trustee by Jeanne Woodford and finally Rick W our Conference Coordinator and Valerie O concluded with talks on the staff assignments and some history of Regional Forums. The night ended with the Video "Markings on The Journey" and a General Session conducted by Greg M.

Saturday we started with Presentations by Paul C., a General trustee, on the role of the A.A.W.S. Director, and Greg M. on our finance's.... lots of questions after this presentation

And then the highlight was Amy, our AA Archivist, on the voices in Archives.

Then at 10 am we had 6 presentations by Pacific Region Delegates on numerous topics of their choice. Mine was on "Rotation - A Curse or Blessing." Highlights of these presentations will be in the final

Forum Report. One interesting fact: The Alt. Delegate from Alaska had to make the presentation for Rick H, the Panel 56 Delegate, because Rick H. could not make it because a Grizzly bear had broken into his home and he stayed home because they have a tendency to return to the scene of the crime. That was exactly what happened the next day, and at this point I would caution anyone who is thinking of using the grizzly bear excuse to miss a MSCA Assembly because that only will work in Alaska.

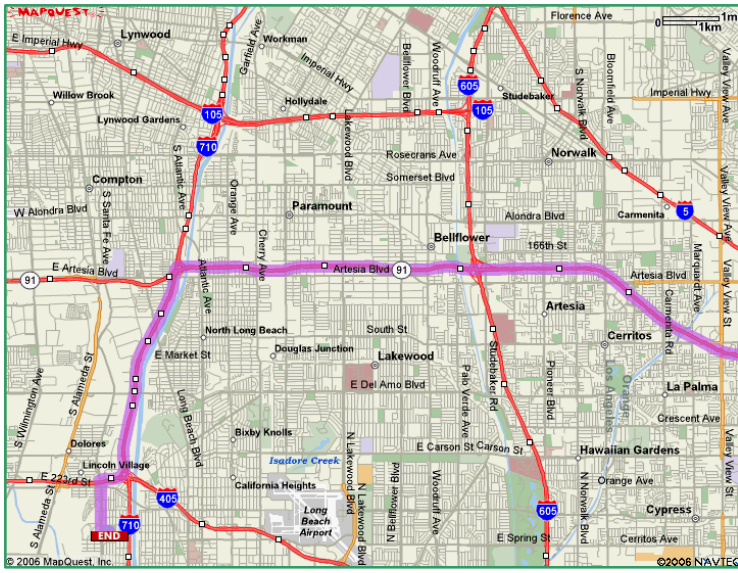
In the afternoon we had more presentations varying from a CPC presentation to Grapevine presentations. In the evening we had Workshops on numerous subjects. I am sure other Officers and others from our Area will report on these workshop topics. I attended one on "Chanting and Rituals in AA" ... you want to talk about enlightening this one sure was that to me. On Sunday morning we had an Ask-It-Basket session followed by Closing Remarks from Past Region Trustees. Then we closed with remarks by Leonard Blumenthal. We sure are lucky to have such a nice man serve us as chairperson of the board.. A great weekend of sharing and service was had by all. Hope someday MSCA can host a Regional Forum.

Love thru Service, Bruce H

## Sept. 10 (Sun.) Assembly (GSRs vote)

**1545 W. 31st Street, Long Beach 90810**

From the CA-91 turn South onto I-710 (S toward LONG BEACH). .3.7 miles  
 Take the I-405 N exit toward SANTA MONICA.0.5 miles  
 Take the HUGHES WAY exit toward SANTA FE AVE.0.1 mi.  
 Turn LEFT onto WARNOCK WAY.0.1 miles  
 Turn LEFT onto SANTA FE AVE.0.8 miles  
 Turn LEFT onto W 31ST ST.



The MSCA Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the AA business activity in the Area. We have Standing and Coordinate Committees. Chairs and cochairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

### Panel 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B	Literature Cochair, Spanish ...Cesar F
CEC...Michael M	Newsletter Chair...Russ D
CPC...Ernesto M	Newsletter Cochair, Spanish...Raul C (acting)
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd	Public Information Chair...Linda H
Convention Liaison...Gary M	Public Information, Spanish...Damien
Convention Liaison, Spanish...tbd	Registration...Ben (acting)
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Special Needs Chair...Rich W
DCM School...Jim B	Special Needs Cochair, Spanish...vacant
DCM School Spanish Cochair.....Francisco D	Translation... Jesus O
Electronic Media Sub-Committee...Nick M	Treatment Facilities Chair...Phil L
Finance Chair...Deidri W	Webserver...Nancy R
Grapevine Chair...Linda C	
La Vina Chair...tbd	
GSR School...Scott R	
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A	
Literature Chair...Patrick C	
Coffee person...Gilberto	
Sound Dude...Joseph M	

## Upcoming Events

- Aug. 13 (Sun.) ASC Meeting, (Dist 7), 11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the Assembly Agenda),*
- Sept. 10 (Sun.) **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Dist. 4) 1545 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Long Beach 90810
- Oct. 8 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist. 24). *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*
- Oct. 15 (Sun.) Heritage Day
- Nov. 11 (Sat.) Servathon (Dist 30)
- Dec.10 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 1). *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the Assembly Agenda),*
- Jan. 14 (Sun.) Assembly (GSRs vote)

### Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

- 9:30 am....GSR School
- 9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session
- 10:15 am....Committees meet
- 11:30 am.....Lunch
- Noon... **Main Meeting** (which normally includes introductions of new GSRs, Area officers' reports, presentation/ discussion/ voting on proposals, committee reports, other reports )
- 3:30...Adjournment

### Proposed MSCA Schedule for 2007 *(not yet approved)*

Jan. 14, 2007 Assembly	June 10 ASC
Feb. 11 ASC	July 8 Foro
Mar. ASC	August 12 ASC
Apr. 8 Pre-Conf. Workshop	Sept. 9 Assembly
<i>(There was discussion about the possibility of changing this date)</i>	Oct 14 Assembly
May 20 Assembly	Nov. 3 Servathon
	Nov. 11 ASC
	Dec. 9 ASC

### Panel 56 Area Officers

Chairperson: Craig S,  
 chair@msca09aa.org  
 Delegate: Bruce H,  
 delegate@msca09aa.org  
 Alt. Delegate: Joe B,  
 altdelegate@msca09aa.org  
 Secretary: Oscar G,  
 secretary@msca09aa.org,  
 Treasurer: Mike M,  
 treasurer@msca09aa.org  
 Registrar: Jason S,  
 registrar@msca09aa.org