

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

June 2007

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

Concept Six – The

An anonymous A.A. member in Orange County

“The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.”

Now, wait a minute, you say! All along you have been telling us that the Groups are the boss. This concept says, flat out, that the General Service Board has “chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters”. That sounds an awful lot like a definition of “boss”.

The 12 Concepts For World Service, when taken as a whole, define legal authority as opposed to practical authority. Because the General Service Board, through its charter, is a legal entity, it must be governed by legal language. This language gives the General Service Board the chief initiative and active responsibility listed in this Concept.

Bill W. basically set up the A.A. Service Structure along the lines of a corporation. In Bill’s essays on the 12 Concepts, found in the A.A. Service Manual, he outlines his reasons for choosing that structure, as opposed to an institutional or government-like structure (the what!? That’s right, we actually have An A.A. Service Manual – check it out at the Central Office, or online at aa.org under SERVICES FOR MEMBERS). However, and this is vital to the working relationship between the General Service Conference and the General Service Board, the Board has always realized that the practical authority held by the Conference grants the power of a final decision to the Conference. The Board has NEVER vetoed or over-ruled the Conference. And we’ll see why next month in the report on Concept VII.

An Anonymous Member of AA in Orange County

Regional Event News

The 2010 Regional Forum will be in Area 9 (our Area).
PRAASA in 2010 will be in Area 05 (Los Angeles),
PRAASA in 2011 will be in Hawaii.

New York - the Lights, Broadway, saying Farewell to Friends

As we did last year, we took the red eye (I wonder why they call it that?). Friday, we went to the AA meeting at GSO then visited our friends who were in their offices which was fun. Bruce decided he wanted to take some historic pictures and armed with some historic sites received from Amy, our archivist, we were off! Armed with metro cards, we were off taking pictures of buildings relating to AA history.

What an adventure! Saturday, I stayed behind and Bruce did his own historic tour. There are no coincidences. While sitting in the lobby, a man with a

...continued on page 2, col. 1

AAGrapevine News

AudioGrapevine

AAGrapevine, the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, also known as "Our Meeting in Print," has announced a price reduction for AudioGrapevine subscriptions.

\$20 for an annual subscription (12 issues) \$ 3.95 for a monthly subscription

Each month, AudioGrapevine, the audio version of AA Grapevine magazine, offers two months of the Grapevine magazine to download and listen to anytime, anywhere. From a desktop, MP3 player or CD, you can hear new stories of hope, personal recovery, and spiritual growth from AA members.

AudioGrapevine is entirely portable. Members can listen to it on the road, in the gym, or when making a meeting isn't possible. It's also helpful to Aas who have difficulty reading or simply don't have enough time to read.

It doesn't cost anything to try it. There is always a free sample from the current issue available to download and hear at www.aagrapevine.org/gv/current/.

Grapevine Rep info

For Grapevine Representative information or help, call or email MSCA AAGrapevine Committee co-chair, Linda C.

high collar and a praying hands chain around his neck asked if he could sit down, I thought he was a priest. A few moments went by and he asked if I were with the 57th general service conference. Being a guest, I replied "my husband is and I am a guest". He got so excited! (He was an alternate delegate, and at the last minute had to replace his delegate who was ill). He couldn't stop talking and asked if I knew where the Roxy was. Of course I didn't, but we walked on Broadway and found it. He wanted to have lunch there; we went back to the hotel and delegates & trustees started arriving and I introduced him so he would feel welcome.

Bruce arrived with camera and I introduced him as well & Hari wanted to know if we would join him for lunch at the Roxy. So six of us went to have lunch at the Roxy with Hari. It was nearing time for the 57th General Service Conference to start and all the delegates had to change to suits. Hari came bouncing off the elevator in his suit looking like a delegate, not a priest! The conference had begun!

This year was completely different, even the banquet where there was a tribute to Nell, who had recently died. I got reacquainted with a friend I hadn't seen in 10 years, Sarah P., Who knew Nell, renewed friendships John G., past staff of GSO & Susan U., Class "A" Jim Estelle & Gary Glynn. I felt at home.

We saw the play Bill W. & Dr. Bob with the pacific region and other alcoholics! Dr. Bob was the star in the play. I was because they knew alcoholics were watching!

This year we went by boat to visit the statue of liberty & Ellis Island. Then about 10 of us went with our hospitality chair Denis O. and walked to Battery Park, lunched at Brady's Tavern where the 9/11 workers were fed freely & a gift (I believe it's a cross) made out of metal from the world trade center was given them as a gift. Our wonderful chair/guide then paid for our meal as he had done for so many of the 9/11 workers. We went on a tour of St. Paul's where so many went to pray after 9/11. Denis pointed out the headstones were made from material from the world trade center, a large piece of metal believed to have come from the world trade center & the tunnel leading to the Indian burial site (rocks with peoples names on them). The tunnel is awesome and has a recording naming people and it brought me to tears.

...continued on page 3, col. 2

More News from the AA Grapevine

Hot Off the Presses for Young People in AA

"In Our Own Words" is a collection of 50 stories by young people in AA. These stories are written by AA members who got sober in their teens, twenties and early thirties. Are there any young people in your group who might like to have a copy? Are you a young person who wonders if anyone in AA can relate? Visit your local Central Office or order from www.aagrapevine.org

Keep it Simple Challenge

The AAGrapevine is totally self-supporting and does not receive AA group contributions or income from advertising or membership fees. GV publications are financed entirely by the sales of the Grapevine magazine, AudioGrapevine, Digital Archive and other related books and CDs.

The magazines and all other items are never priced to earn a profit, but to cover basic operating expenses and escalating fixed costs (such as 40% postal increases over a 10-year period).

The Challenge: 100 new Grapevine magazine and/or AudioGrapevine subscriptions per area can assure that the AAGrapevine, Inc. is fully self-supporting in 2007. **AREA 09! ARE WE UP FOR A CHALLENGE???** Send in your subscriptions or visit www.aagrapevine.org.

7th Tradition Idea for your next Group Business Meeting?

One group reports that in addition to their 7th Tradition contributions to Intergroup, District, Area, and GSO, they buy one subscription to the AAGrapevine each month. As they accumulate, the group donates them to local AA service committees, such as treatment, corrections, or public information). Easy to subscribe! Visit www.aagrapevine.org.

Subscription Price Hike in July: Great time to subscribe: NOW!

In addition to the *Keep It Simple Challenge*, the GV subscription price will increase to \$20 per year (from \$18). *What a great time to help meet the challenge and give gift subscriptions to sponsors, sponsees, groups, friends, family, our doctor, dentist and local police station!* Any questions or suggestions? Contact me.

Linda C.
Area AAGrapevine Committee Co-Chair

Concept 7 – Legal vs Traditional Authority

Concept 7 (short form) The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

This concept spells out the exact relationship of the General Service Board to the General Service Conference, and therefore to the A.A. Groups. It says that the General Service Board, out of necessity, is given legal authority, through the Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board, (whoa, doesn't that sound like legal terminology!) to manage the affairs of the General Service Office and the two legal corporations – Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS) and the A.A. Grapevine. I can hear you now, "Hey, you told us earlier that the Groups are in charge. This sounds like some board of trustees is making all the decisions". *Please read past the semi-colon in the Concept short form.*

The concept goes on to say that the General Service Conference, representing the Groups, relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness. In the long form, it is much more descriptive – it says that the General Service Conference "... relies instead upon the **force** of tradition and the **power** of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness" (Italics, bolding and underlining added by author). Looking especially at Traditions 2 and 9, we see that the **ultimate** authority comes from the Group conscience, and that the Service Boards and Committees are directly responsible to those they serve. This is the force of tradition spelled out in this concept.

But what about the *power of the purse*, what is that? In the power of the purse lies the ultimate power, one that has never had to be used on a massive scale. This is where the Groups simply withhold their voluntary contributions to the General Service Office, (G.S.O.) because they believe that the General Service Board, or the General Service Conference has grossly erred in their decision(s). Without voluntary group contributions, G.S.O. would cease to operate. Strong medicine, indeed! It should be evident that the *power of the purse* works at all levels of service, G.S.O., the District Committee, the Area Assembly, Central Office and the Hospitals & Institutions Committee. All service boards and committees must remember that the A.A. Groups hold the purse strings. The consequences of ignoring this power invested in the A.A. Groups are dire.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

New York - ... continued from page 2, col. 1

By the time we got back to the Crowne Plaza, it was 5:15pm & I went to the room for a short nap. Bruce came in around 9pm and asked what I'd had for dinner (whoops!) So he took me to the stardust & we had ice cream and listened to some great live singing @ the stardust.

Next day was Radio City Music Hall (I went because i wanted to be where the NFL draft was taking place a few days later) then on to Riverside Dr., Lunch and fellowship until 2pm & then upstairs to GSO, I went on my own tour. Greg was one of the first to arrive followed by Doug R., I spoke to them about possibly receiving pamphlets in Farsi, and Greg came back with a Farsi big book for a group in Irvine. I viewed the sample of the new program for registrars & its simplicity was great. On to the Grapevine where we were all presented with a folder that included in your own words (a Grapevine book for young people).

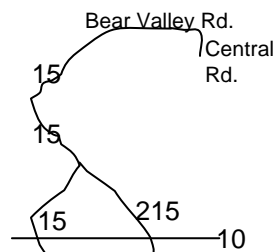
I saw "Mama Mia" with some other alkie. Treked to Yankee stadium and the game was rained out. Went to an AA meeting at Saint Malaky's, Little Italy & China Town. I said a tearful goodbye to my friend, Lee Ann M., Kentucky. Since I skipped the farewell lunch last year, I decided to go this year. It was at 7's and I got to sit with Denis, Linda Blumenthal, Lucy, Candida & Ramona from Indiana. There were many hugs and said see you in San Antonio. The tears were private!

*Thru love and service, your panel 56-57 guest/delanon,
Linda H.*

June 10 ASC

Directions from
Riverside County: Take
I-15 N toward
BARSTOW. Take the
BEAR VALLEY RD exit-
EXIT 147- toward
LUCERNE VALLEY.0.3
miles. Turn RIGHT onto
BEAR VALLEY RD.9.7
miles. Turn RIGHT onto
CENTRAL RD.1.2
miles. End at **11085
Central Rd**, Apple
Valley, CA 92308

Victor Valley Alano Club,
11085 Central Rd.,
Apple Valley, CA



Foro

Area 09 Mid Southern California FORO #16 will meet on July 8th 2007 at Mayfair park Clark Avenue, Lakewood CA.

Memories of the 1992 Foro: Memories of the first Foro of M.S.CA. 09 are that at the time there were only 4 Spanish speaking districts and they were districts 20, 21, 22, and 23. It was in the year 1992 that district 23 made an inquiry about starting a Foro for General Service, and from that day forward they started meeting the last Sunday of the month. At that time there were only a few Spanish speaking people that would get involved in Area meetings such as PRAASA, SERVATHON, REGIONAL FORUMS, PRE CONFERENCIA workshops, and other General Service Office events.

That was the beginning of this event and, with the help of the four districts, it paved the way for the first FORO called LIGHTING THE ROAD FOR OTHERS. The day was December 13th in the city of Riverside and the officers of the area were invited and were present at this event.

Soon later the meeting started planning the second FORO and district 21 requested that each district have a liaison present. Well then, a person attending the meeting at district 21 that was not known to the group reported to the group that he had been in the program for a long time and asked the group if he could have the opportunity to be of the service. He would like to be the chairperson and after a few months he collected the money from the 7th tradition and he took the money and was never heard from again.

So for what he did, Area 09 was responsible for the cost of the event of the Foro. Because of what happened, the area then asked for help with setting guiding principles for this event. A member, Manuel I (deceased), said he would do it and he carefully worked out the details and the event should be for the area and not just the Spanish Foro. We realized we are all in the same area geographic area 09 and the event would be called the Foro of the area since we all participate here. A.A. being just one, and it does not matter what language is spoken.

And that is the way it was done, even though some did not agree, and but for the grace of God, it was accepted.

According to the guidelines of the first Foro, each event will be hosted by one Spanish Speaking district and one English Speaking district. And it is still being done now.

The committee's main objective is to designate each year what districts will be responsible to host this event and make sure it is decided before January so we can have it on the agenda for next year. Also if a group is not responsible, we will have time to make a change. And it would give them a time to come up with their theme and emblem. That's the way FORO #16 was done with the theme (NOSOTROS YA SALIMOS) .."WE HAVE COME OUT" this theme was made by a member of the group Ultimo Milagro.

Hosted by District 4 and 21.

49th ICYPAA in Los Angeles

Aug. 31-Sep.2, 2007

ICYPAA is the International Conference of Young People in AA. It's an annual gathering of young AA's who come together to carry the message of AA and celebrate sobriety with meetings, fellowship and lots of fun!!!. ICYPAA attendees return home better prepared to carry the message to young people in AA.

This years ICYPAA will be in Los Angeles and is being organized to generate an unprecedented attendance of young people in AA from the national and international AA community. This is really special because ICYPAA hasn't been in L.A. since 1965 and the next time ICYPAA is in Southern California you might not be young anymore!

If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please visit www.49thicyvaa.org for more information. You can register for the conference and book your hotel room online as well as get conference program and event information. You can also find out more info by calling the ICYPAA info-Line: (310) 216-8771.

Website News

The Following items can now be found on our MSCA website (www.msca09aa.org)

- Delegate's report about the 2007 General Service Conference
- Advisory Actions of the 2007 General Service Conference
- Additional Considerations of the 2007 General Service Conference
- Box 459 Early Bird Edition (June-July '07)
- AAWS Highlights (March 2007)
- Minutes from the MSCA Archives Committee meetings during 2006 and 2007 (on their committee's webpage)

Our Area website received an average of 876 hits per day during the month of April, 2007.

Our Area website had an average of 219 visitors ("sessions") per day during the month of April, 2007.

Foro, July 8

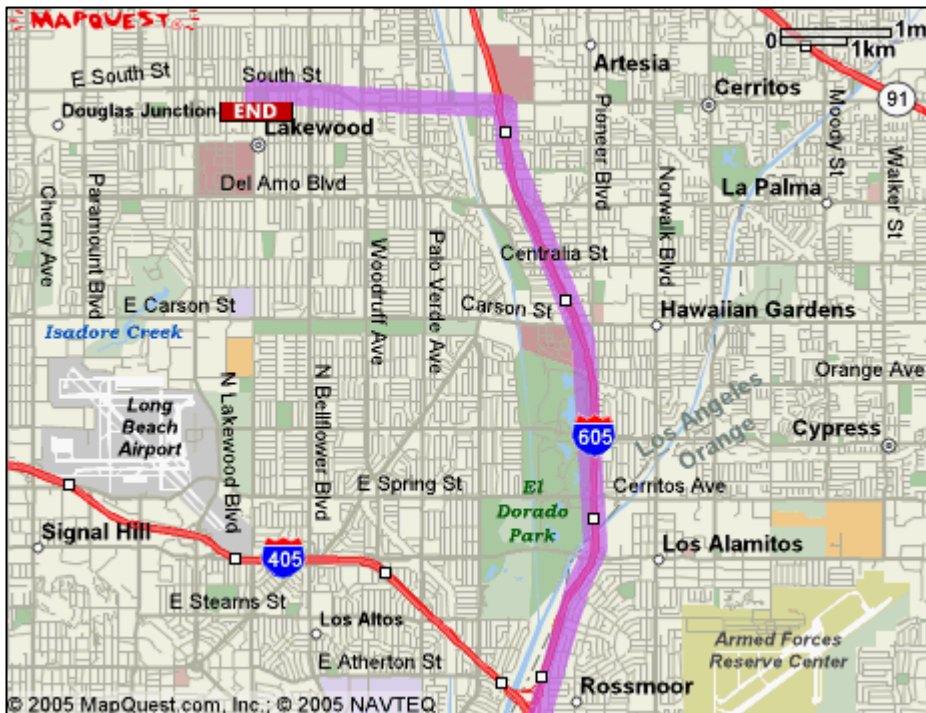
The Area 9 Mid Southern California Foro # 16 will meet on July 8th 2007 at Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA, 90712.

The Foro Committee of Area 9 Mid Southern California greets you with many 24 hours of blessed sobriety.

Area 09 is having its yearly Foro of service, and we invite the different areas and districts to attend and participate in multi-table discussions on General Service topics.

On A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

We look forward to having you at this great event.
Hosted by districts 4 and 21



**MSCA Foro, July 8, 2007,
Community Center at
Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark
Avenue, Lakewood, CA**

Directions from the South:
Take I-405 N toward LONG
BEACH.

Merge onto I-605 N.5.4
miles.

Take the SOUTH ST exit.0.2
miles.

Turn LEFT onto SOUTH
ST.2.2 miles.

Turn LEFT onto CLARK
AVE.<0.1 miles.

End at 5720 Clark Ave,
Lakewood, CA

Directions From the East:
Take I-10 W toward LOS
ANGELES.

Merge onto CA-60 W via the
exit on the LEFT toward
RIVERSIDE.23.0 miles.

Merge onto CA-91 W toward
RIVERSIDE/BEACH
CITIES.49.8 miles.

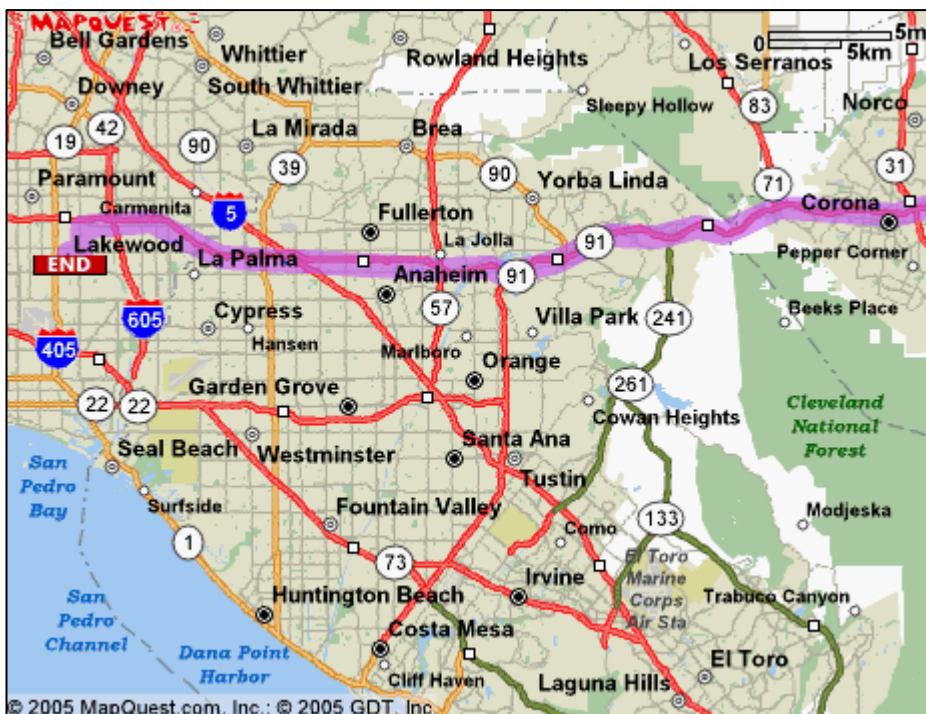
Take the BELLFLOWER
BLVD exit toward
BELLFLOWER.0.1 miles.

Turn LEFT onto
BELLFLOWER BLVD.1.1
miles .

Turn RIGHT onto SOUTH
ST.0.5 miles .

Turn LEFT onto CLARK
AVE.<0.1 miles.

End at 5720 Clark Ave,
Lakewood, CA



Tradition 6 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

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
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd	Public Information Chair...Linda H
Convention Liaison...Gary M	Public Information, Spanish...Damien
Convention Liaison, Spanish...tbd	Registration...Ben
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Special Needs Chair...Rich W
DCM School...Jim B	Special Needs Cochair, Spanish....vacant
DCM School Spanish Cochair.....	Translation... Jorge M
Electronic Media Sub-Committee...Nick M	Treatment Facilities Chair...Phil L
Finance Chair...Joseph M	Web servant...Nancy R
Grapevine Chair...Linda C	Sound Dude...Joseph M
La Vina Chair...Francisco D	
GSR School...Scott R	
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A	
Literature Chair...Patrick C	
Coffee person...Ana S	

Upcoming Events

June 10 ASC (District 19) (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), Victor.Valley Alano Club, 11085 Central Rd., Apple Valley, CA 92307

Jul 8 Foro (Districts 4 and 21), 5720 Clark Ave., Lakewood 90712

Aug 12 ASC (District 14) (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*)

Sep 9 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District 12)

Sep 16, Sunday, 2nd Annual Public Information Workshop, 805 E. Sycamore St., Anaheim from 8am to 3:30pm.

Oct. 6 Heritage Day

Oct 14 Assembly (District 8)

Nov. 3 Servathon (Dist 17)

Nov. 11 ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*) Dist 18

Dec. 9 ASC, (D 23)(*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*)

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

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,