

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

May 2007

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

Concept Five – The Right of Appeal

An anonymous A.A. member in Orange County

Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

This Concept is commonly referred to, (when referred to, at all) as the "right of the minority to speak". Of all the 12 Concepts for World Service, this Concept is probably the most familiar to the Fellowship as a whole. Who wouldn't want a Concept where they are always guaranteed the last word, as long as we vote against everything. And, unfortunately, that is usually the case – the people who vote against everything are offered the chance to get the last word in.

Now, that is the callous way to look at, and who wants to come off as callous? Certainly not me. So let's take a look at it another way. Suppose that there was a proposal made at the monthly Orange County Intergroup meeting to close the Central Office and let the Groups fend for themselves. The arguments on both sides are persuasive and compelling, but the argument to close the office wins out. The Intergroup Reps just sit there stunned! How do they go back to their groups and explain that there will be no more Central Office in Orange County?! Surely, all is lost! But, a solitary figure stands up and asks for the "right of the minority to speak" – the "right of appeal". One by one, the Intergroup Reps stand up and state their reasons that they believe the Central Office should remain open. You see, they hadn't stood up during the discussion because they never believed that it could happen – the closing of the Orange County Central Office! This Concept has given them the opportunity to express themselves as representatives of their groups. A re-vote is called for and the re-vote defeats the proposal to close the Central Office. Whew!!!!

Far-fetched? Maybe, maybe not. But matters just as dire to our Fellowship are being discussed every day somewhere in the world. I recall one year our Delegate came back from the General Service Conference and stated that the proposal to create the pamphlet "To the Black/African-American Alcoholic" had been defeated by the Conference, but a Class "A" member of the General Service Board had exercised the "right of appeal" and the Conference completely changed their minds, (after much loving discussion) and voted to develop the pamphlet, given the new experience and information offered by a single member.

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Delegate's Corner

Bruce H.

By the time this Newsletter is out I will have attended the 57th GSC Conference, and I will be on my way home to start the important process of communicating what happened at the GSC. Hopefully everyone is working hard to make the joint Conference report backs even better than they were last year, and believe me they were fabulous last year. I will be bringing back the Early Bird Box 459, and these will help in reporting what took place at the Conference. The bittersweet part in this process is I will have attended my final Conference; however the good part will be that in 2008 a new person will have the chance as the Panel 58 Delegate to experience the same thing that is the GSC.

Now some reflections on PRAASA 2007: It was, as usual, a tremendous experience for myself and those others from Area 09. The number of attendees from our Area was somewhere around 100, I say around 100 because the numbers are somewhat fuzzy. The numbers are not important; the most important part was the experience which is PRAASA. Hopefully those who attended reenergized their batteries for this thing which is General Service; I know this happened to myself when on Friday and Saturday we were able to share with the new Panel 57 Delegates about the GSC experience. I was also able to connect with a service person from the middle 1980s when I first started to be of service in AA. Lee and I had a lot of catching up to do, and it was sure great to talk about those early days in South Bay H&I.. However the highlight of the week was to see the new energy that the first time attendees at PRAASA had, and it reaffirmed to me that AA is in good hands with this new class of Trusted Servant's.

I am looking forward to next year in Anchorage Alaska. Remember to book your flights early because they are limited in number. You can already book your Hotel Reservations. For that information, I will bring flyers to the May Assembly. In conclusion about PRAASA just do it next year because it most certainly will be the AA service highlight of the year.

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Concept Five ... continued from col. 1

The exercise of this cherished "right of appeal" has often turned the tide – a lot more often than you probably think. Concept 5 – what a Concept!!

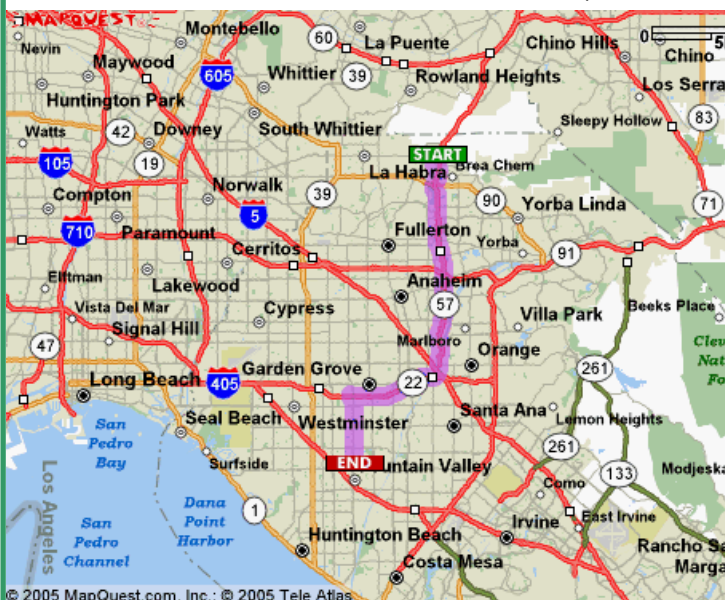
A member of A.A. in Orange County

Since the March ASC, I have attended a Pre-Conference Workshop in Area 93, and at this event I was delighted to stay for the dinner meeting and hear the AA story of our current GSC Coordinator Rick W. I also was delighted to share at the Archives Open House on April 1st, where it was great to hear from a friend of AA Dr. Mickey Ask and his experience working with us drunks. If you have not visited the Archives make sure to attend in the next couple of months. I also have had the pleasure to attend a Pre-Conference Workshop in Area 08 in El Centro on April 14th, and it was very informative and I am sure the information will be useful at the GSC.

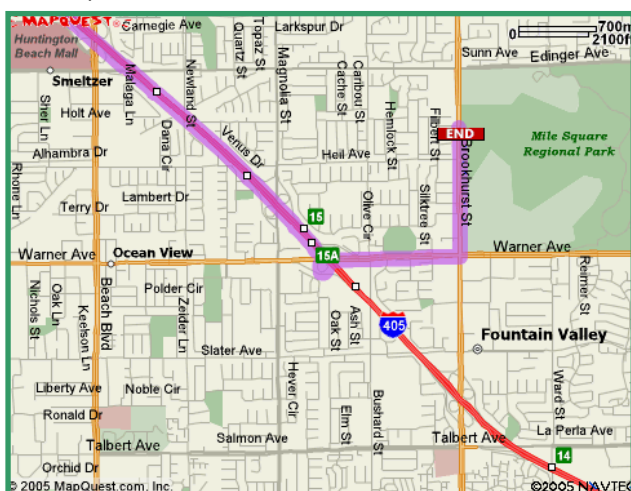
On Sunday the 15th I attended our Pre-Conference Workshop in Fullerton. It was a day full of lots of love and service, and the feedback will be very useful on all the final agenda items. In closing I am looking forward to reporting back on the 57th GSC, and seeing all my old friends at the May Assembly on May 20th.

Love thru Service Bruce H.

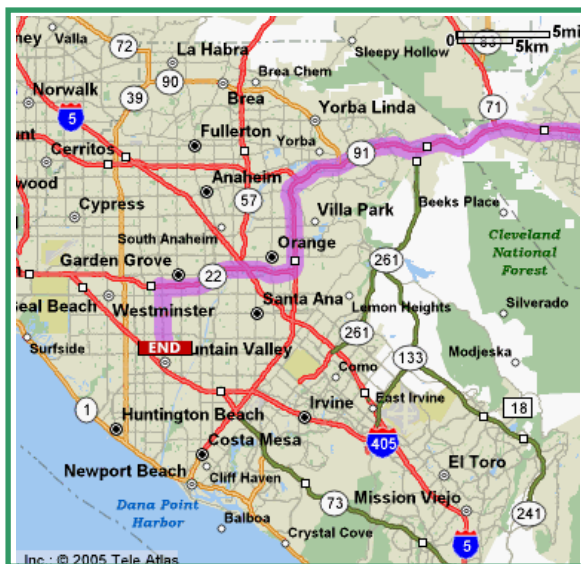
MSCA Assembly, May 20, 16400 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708-2000 (recreation center)



From Brea: Head south on CA-57 toward SANTA ANA (then drive 9.7 miles). Merge onto CA-22 W toward LONG BEACH (drive 4.8 miles). Take the exit toward BROOKHURST ST (drive 0.2 mi.) Turn RIGHT onto TRASK AVE. (drive 0.1 miles). Turn RIGHT onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 2.8 mi). Turn LEFT onto THISTLE AVE. (drive <0.1 mi.). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**



From Long Beach: Head south on I-405. Take the WARNER AVE EAST exit- EXIT 15A. (drive 0.2 miles). Merge onto WARNER AVE. (drive 0.7 miles). Turn LEFT onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 0.6 miles). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**



From Palm Springs: Head west on I-10 (drive 18.5 miles). Merge onto CA-60 W via the exit on the LEFT toward RIVERSIDE (drive 22.9 miles). Take the CA-91 S exit toward RIVERSIDE / BEACH CITIES (drive 0.3 miles). Take the CA-60 exit toward LOS ANGELES (drive 0.2 miles). Merge onto I-215 S. (drive <0.1 miles). I-215 S becomes CA-91 W. (drive 22.5 miles). Take CA-91 EXPRESS LN toward 91 EXPRESS TOLL (Portions toll) (drive 8.3 miles). Merge onto CA-55 S. (drive 5.1 miles) Merge onto CA-22 W toward LONG BEACH (drive 7.6 miles). Take the exit toward BROOKHURST ST. (drive 0.2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto TRASK AVE. (drive 0.1 miles). Turn RIGHT onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 2.8 miles). Turn LEFT onto THISTLE AVE. (drive <0.1 miles). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**

PRAASA – what a way to re-energize!

Phil Z

While leaving for Portland late Friday afternoon my mind started to count all the dollar bills that went into the 7th Tradition basket at meetings all over the district to help me in getting there. Most of those AA's probably don't even realize that part of their contributions made my trip possible. The flight up was about as brief as my pink cloud in recovery, it took all of a little more than two hours to leave my "home" behind and enter a weekend that I knew included some work but dividends that I know can not be counted. Arriving late (9 PM) has its advantages, one of which is your usually tired enough to drop your bags in the room and head directly to a meeting. Well I'll admit I didn't find a "meeting" per se down the hall, but who else but my service sponsor reminding me he had an early AM meeting in just over seven hours and he was down for the evening. That led me to do what any good alcoholic would do, take a few more steps and started a conversation with yet another DCM from Alaska. Thirty minutes later and I was almost asleep while still seeing visions of my kindly Alaskan DCM sharing about how they travel through sleet and snow to area meetings....ya ya ya, and I complain about driving to Ontario...

Saturday morning and instead of my early 5AM rise I was able to sleep in till 6:30, waking up to the smell of Hospitality Suite coffee being made down the hall. So of course I took that as a sign and made my way down to enjoy some of Portland's finest joe. Incredibly they must have put some extra "service" grinds in that coffee because no sooner had a mentioned District Three our Delegate Bruce, Area 9 Registrar Jason,, and my service sponsor Mike joined me in the main conference room for the morning's first round of Conference Topics. I already liked one of the topics, "The AA Group" pamphlet should say more about groups paying expenses for their GSR to attend service functions?"... Ok, so I might be a little biased, but if you had the weekend I had, you would agree with me too!! The following panels discussed topics like should a Class B Trustee (Alcoholic), be allowed to chair the board, a new video for young people that is about two years out, discussing the Conference Final Report, and developing a communication plan to increase the level of group participation and self support within the Conference structure. This one had a few great ideas that I thought the district might entertain; invite the group's trusted servants to our next business meeting, have dist/area minutes provided to all meetings in district to encourage more to attend the monthly business meetings. A few great tips on giving that all too familiar GSR report to your group: keep your

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PRAASA ... continued from col. 1 this page

Report short and to the point when needed and add some laughter and humor in it to keep it fresh at times too, keep the topics to what you think some of your members might be interested in (this means you have to know a few of them a little better), ask your group what they might have questions about and bring them to the district meeting for clarification.

Lunch was had having it "my way" aka Burger King, which was just what the doctor ordered to carry me through the rainy afternoon. Madeleine P, Pacific Reg. Trustee, gave her report and I personally enjoyed her energy throughout the conference and left assured we are well represented. The Business meeting went, well, like any good AA Business meeting....Western Wash. State, Boise, Idaho, Hawaii, and Southern California all put in bids to host the 2011 PRAASA. And we finally agreed to disperse seed monies extending to four events to accommodate better planning and rates.

After dinner led me to Roundtable discussion, this one being Archives. I was a little dismayed that I missed the Treasurer's roundtable the night before (the only complaint in that the second night of roundtables was minimal). In any case, I enjoyed the Archives discussion, including some different ways of storing material and the proper way to document an oral dictation. After a few more cups of late night coffee I rounded off the evening by thanking my higher power for allowing me to experience this.

Sunday morning included listening to the past Trustee's experiences. Though each past trustee's experience was different in its own way, somehow the spirit of service was clear in all of them. Allowing the process to work in their own lives and it extending into the work they do on behalf of the Pacific Region. It was inspiring to hear that through their stories, I found a little more hope to continue on the path. After a few strange Ask It Basket questions we closed as a group, praying out with the Responsibility Prayer. What a way to re-energize yourself towards service. Saying goodbyes and looking forward to seeing many of them in Anchorage, Alaska next year. It was a truly rewarding experience and another opportunity to grow in service. While I could share for hours about the many conversations and thoughts I had, to sum it up you have to join us and experience it yourself. My only request if that our district makes it a point to help get a few more of us up to Alaska next year. It is an experience that you don't want to miss. I am grateful to the District and thank all of those that made this trip possible.

Yours In Service,
Phil Z, Treasurer, District 3

The GSR – Part II

Why Do We Need a General Service Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting.

“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect against disintegration while preventing over-integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

“We need it to ensure that all changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unmasked and feel welcome. We need to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is”.

So there you have it. We need a General Service Conference to ensure that all who suffer from alcoholism, for as long a time as God may need us, will find what you and I found in A.A. But the first sentence of the final paragraph, above, should be troublesome to each and every one of us. The membership of any General Service Conference is made up elected Delegates from the 93 delegate areas of the United States and Canada, along with the members of the General Service Board, defined General Service Office staff and the directors of our two service corporations – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS) and the A.A. Grapevine. This is what Mr. Smith refers to when he states “...*that all changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few*”. When our delegate area, Mid-Southern California Area 09, elected our delegate in October of 2005, approximately 60 of the 1900+ groups in our Area cared enough to send a General Service Representative, (GSR). This situation is nothing less than a broken promise to those who *stumble in the darkness*, having not yet found A.A. - a broken promise to that *child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism*, who will someday seek a haven in the rooms of A.A. Remember, the Responsibility Statement we find printed on most pieces of A.A. pamphlet literature does not say that the man or woman sitting next to me is responsible, it states very bluntly – I AM RESPONSIBLE!

Nick M. – Past Delegate, Panel 48

49th ICYPAA

Aug. 31-Sep.2, 2007

ICYPAA (International Conference of Young People in AA) is an annual celebration of sobriety among young people in AA. This conference provides an opportunity for young AA's from all over the world to come together and share their experience, strength and hope as members of AA. This year's ICYPAA (the 49th one) will be held from Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, 2007 (labor Day weekend) in Los Angeles. More information can be found on their website, www.49thcypaa.org. Please note that the mention of their website in this newsletter does NOT imply any sponsorship, endorsement or oversight of this event or this website by the Mid-Southern California Area (Area 9). You can also find out more info by calling the ICYPAA info-Line: (310) 216-8771.

HELP WANTED!!

Mid-southern California Area 09 will be the site of the third annual international Seniors in Sobriety conference in May (?) 2008. Many positions open. All ages welcome. Experienced or not. Contact Rick H. with any questions at CEC@msca09aa.org

There is still time to check out the second annual Seniors In Sobriety conference in Sedona, Arizona, May 8 through May 11, 2007. Visit the Seniors in Sobriety website at <http://www.seniorsinsobriety.org/>,

Area 9 Website use increases

District 5 has recently decided to post its District Newsletter on the District 5 page of the MSCA website.

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

Upcoming Events

- May 20 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District 6), 16400 Brookhurst, Fountain Valley, 92708
- June 10 ASC (District 19) (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*)
- 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*)

Tradition 5 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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

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,