



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 2008

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

Seniors in Sobriety on the Queen Mary

Oh Boy! After more than a year of meetings and planning and collaboration, here it was, May 20, 2008, the first day of the 3rd Annual A.A. Seniors in Sobriety Conference. The planning committee had chosen to hold the conference on the historic and elegant H.M.S. Queen Mary, in Long Beach, CA. I was as nervous as a mouse tip-toeing by a sleeping cat. Will the people that we asked to speak show up? Will the moderators and the readers of all of the panels arrive in a timely manner? Will the attendees be able to find their way around this huge and remarkable ship? Will the presentations by the professionals and the Doctor's Opinion be well received by the attendees? So many questions. So I did what I have been taught to do by so many other recovering alcoholics that have gone before me. I said the Serenity Prayer and came aboard; ready to take action, wherever it was necessary.

Immediately, I ran into numerous old friends that I hadn't seen since the 2nd Annual A.A. Seniors in Sobriety Conference in Sedona, Arizona in 2007, and was delighted to see and speak with them and spend time with them. As the early evening progressed, the reception went off without a hitch, the hors d'oeuvres were ohed and ahhed, and the opening ceremony was a hit, especially the Chapter 3 Video presentation. The speaker that night was terrific. The next morning, and every morning, at 6:30 a.m., there was an attitude adjustment Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. The professional presentation was informative and interesting, and the Cooperation with the Elder Community Panel was good. The Catalina trip was a complete success. That night the Golden Years skit, the Al-Anon play, Miracles, and the Big Book "Jeopardy" Quiz, hosted by AOCYPAA were all great hits. On Thursday, The Legacy Series (Recovery, Unity, Service) was very well attended and The Family Afterward, Al-Anon and A.A. luncheon was sold out, with an excellent husband/wife combo for speakers. The Doctor's Opinion was lauded by all, the banquet was delicious and the speaker was great, followed by DJ Nick and dancing to the music of the Big Bands and Oldies.

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Delegate's Corner

Hello everyone;

I just wanted to send a thank you to everyone for all of the loving support I have received since the beginning of our MSCA Panel 58 in January and my return from the Conference earlier in May. I feel so grateful to all of MSCA for affording me this unbelievable honor of being Delegate for (in my opinion) one of the best, and most active, Areas within the conference structure. I truly believe that we are working at the forefront of AA service. We have a lot of A.A. work that needs our attention within our Area and I am looking forward to what the rest of this year (2008) has to offer.

I would like to share what Bob P., Past Delegate, Trustee, and General Manager of GSO said in his farewell address to the 36th General Service Conference. This has been a meditation piece of mine for a couple of months, and I find his words insightful and timely. I would like to hear back from those of you who wish to respond about what you think or feel about Bob's words.

I hope to see all of you at the Delegates Sharing Session in Redondo Beach at our next ASC on June the 8th.

allways@yourservice, Joe B.

"Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual - by far - than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

"If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense."

- Bob P. -

My name is Cleeshay, and I'm an alcoholic.

Hope is found here when I keep it simple. If I do what's in front of me and keep coming back, it will certainly keep my memory green. When I forget the past I am doomed to repeat it, so, I stay away from that first drink, lest I forget that I now wake up instead of coming to. But in the beginning I came.

Then I came to. And finally came to believe.

Today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope, so easy does it and enjoy the journey!

We all gotta crawl before we walk, so go down in the elevator and come up by the steps (because the elevator's broken). When I keep an attitude of gratitude, and think, think, think, stinking thinking will fly out the window one day at a time.

Whatever will be, will be, so I h.o.p.e. you will help other people everyday and understand that you are protected by Smith and Wilson. It works if I work it with experience, strength and hope.

My best thinking got me here, so if I keep doing what I'm doing, I'll keep getting what I got. After all, there is a God, and I'm not it (Him)(Her).

You'll find, if you keep coming back, that pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional, so drop the rock and h.a.l.t. when you feel too hungry, angry, lonely, or tired (or serious). Sober and crazy means progress, not perfection, so utilize, don't analyze.

Most people find that if you take first things first, do ninety meetings in ninety days (or thirty meetings in thirty days) (or sixty meetings in sixty days) and live and let live that you can think the drink through and slogans will work like mental floss.

Easy does it, friends...there but for the grace of God goes I, because action is the magic word so just do it! Surrender! Surrender to win! Don't forget to put the plug in the jug, because we aren't bad people getting good, we're sick people getting well.

Thank you for letting me share.

Concept VI (long form)

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Seniors in Sobriety ..continued from p.1, col. 1

And then, so quickly it didn't seem possible, the last day was upon us and we listened to another great A.A. speaker and then participated in the Business Meeting. We were fortunate to receive and accept a bid for 2009 in Vancouver, Washington, which is tentatively scheduled for the first week in June 2009. And then I was saying goodbye again to old friends and new friends, and suddenly it was over. And it had been the very best time. Filled with laughter and serenity and tears and joy. And if not for Alcoholics Anonymous, I would have missed the entire cruise! What a miracle.

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.

MSCA Website Usage

During the month of April, 2008, our MSCA website (msca09aa.org) received an average of 1571 hits per day, and an average of 350 visitors (sessions) per day.

"Our Twelve Steps probably won't change, the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communications, our manner of organizing ourselves for function or service--let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever."

--Bill W. 1960

Fifty Years Ago in the Grapevine

Here is an article printed in the AA Grapevine 50 years ago (reprinted with permission):

"June 1958

Vol. 15 No. 1

AA's Group Conscience in Action
8TH General Service Conference Meets

THE EIGHTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE of Alcoholics Anonymous was marked by a deep awareness of responsibility both to delegates' local areas and to the Fellowship as a whole, according to a special summary distributed on the last day of the Conference held in New York, April 23-27, 1958.

Delegates from every state of the Union and each Canadian province, as well as Puerto Rico and Alaska, met with the Board of Trustees, directors and staff of the AA Grapevine, AA Publishing, Inc., and the General Service Office, to consider questions affecting AA as a whole. An observer from Norway also was present.

"Many discussions involved expressions of deep-felt but varying viewpoints," the summary emphasizes. "All, however, were illuminated by an earnest, continuing search for approaches and solutions designed to fulfill AA's primary purpose: enduring service to the alcoholic who, now or in the future, may turn to the Fellowship for help."

Highlights of Conference Advisory Actions recommended by its nine six-member "Out-of-a-hat" Committees were:

25th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

A 25th Anniversary Convention of AA was voted, to be held in Long Beach, California, July 1-3, 1960--subject to final approval and direction by the General Service Board.

RATIO OF TRUSTEES

In a "sense of the Conference" vote, a majority of 65-to-12 approved the principle of changing the ratio of Trustees of the General Service Board (now 8 non-AAs and 7 AAs) to 9 non-AAs and 9 AAs--with the understanding that the question will be submitted to local areas for review and guidance prior to final action at the 1959 General Service Conference.

GRAPEVINE SUPPORT

Delegates agreed to help stimulate Grapevine circulation, which experienced a drop in the past year, with a person-to-person plan, augmented by modest promotional support from the Grapevine office.

...continued in column 2

Fifty Years Ago ... continued from column 1

ANONYMITY MAILING

Although it was noted that fewer anonymity breaks had occurred during 1957 than in previous years, Conference members voted approval of a widespread mailing from the General Service Office to writers, editors, publishers, film personnel and others, reminding them of the importance--to the membership and to AA--of personal anonymity.

AA "CENSUS"

A plan was approved whereby delegates will try to get a more accurate count of the number of both active and "inactive" members identified, with groups in their areas. Purpose of the "census" is to reflect the real recovery picture, known to be in excess of membership figures actually reported by groups registered at GSO.

NO PAPERBACK "BIG BOOK"

Unanimous rejection, "for both practical and spiritual reasons," was voted a suggestion to issue a cheap reprint edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous."

FOREIGN TEXTBOOKS

The Conference approved a proposal that AA Publishing provide a basic textbook on AA in the languages of a number of countries where such a text is reported to be needed.

BILL'S STATUS

In response to a written request from Bill W. for clarification of his status in the interim before his final retirement from special service work, the Conference recorded its wish for his continued leadership on projects of movement-wide concern. [Six such projects, some complete, or near completion, and others still to be finished, were outlined to the delegates: an AA history (published last Fall); an hour-and-a-half nationwide television show on AA; determination of the trustee ratio; achievement of real solvency for the General Service Office; structural reorganization of the Grapevine; and enlargement and revision of the Third Legacy Manual--Ed.]

Two copies of a summary of Conference actions will be mailed to all registered groups with the June "Exchange Bulletin," and Area Committeemen will have advance digests sometime during May, according to the General Service Office. Many groups have also scheduled meetings for personal reports on the Conference. The Grapevine will, as space permits, carry additional material on pertinent Conference actions in future issues."

June 8 ASC, 320 Knob Hill Ave,
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Directions from the counties of
Orange, San Bernardino and
Riverside:

Take CA-91 toward Los Angeles.

Merge onto I-405 N via Exit 6 toward
Santa Monica.

Take the Western Ave. exit, Exit 38B.

Turn left onto S. Western Ave/CA-213.

Turn Right onto W 190th St.

Turn left onto Hawthorne Blve/CA-
107S.

Turn Right onto Torrance Blvd.

Turn right onto Knob Hill Ave. and
drive 0.1 miles.

Upcoming Events

June 8, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 1), **Knob Hill Community Center 320 Knob Hill Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

July 13, 2008, Sunday, Foro (District 22 & 30)

Aug. 10, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), (District 15)

August 29, 30, and 31, 2008: 2008 Pacific Regional Forum - Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center, 322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201 (registration information can be found on our msca website)

Sep. 14, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**), (District 4)

Oct. 12, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 7)

Nov. 8, 2008, Servathon (Saturday) (District 3)

Dec. 14, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), District 18

Panel 58 Area Officers

Delegate: Joe B, 714-423-3808,
delegate2008@msca09aa.org

Alternate Delegate: Mike M

Chair: Jason S

Secretary: Ruth D

Treasurer: Linda H

Registrar: Cesar F

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:00 am...GSR/DCM/DCMC Schools,
Delegate's Rpt

10:30...ASC or Assembly mtg

Ca 1 pm.....Lunch

Ca 1:30 pm...Committee mtgs

3:30 pm...Committee mtgs Adjourn

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 Co-Chairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 58 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Joseph H

CEC Chair...Rick H

Area Communications Committee Chair...Linda C

Area Communications Committee Co-chair...tdb

Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Steve S

Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Henry B

Webservant...Becky B

Equipment Subcommittee Chair...tdb

Translation Subcommittee Chair...Jorge

Convention Liaison...Mike

Convention Liaison, Spn...Jose A

Corrections Chair...Patrick C

CPC Chir...Michael M

CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S

DCM School...Scott R

DCM School Spanishtdb

Finance Committee Chair...Joseph M

Grapevine Chair...Kimberli A

La Viña Chair...Angela R

GSR School...John H

GSR School, Spanish... Paco G

Literature Chair...tdb

Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ...tdb

Public Information Chair...Kay M

Public Info., Sp...Francisco D

Registration...David T

Special Needs Chair...tdb

Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tdb

Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F

Sound Dude... Raul C

Coffee person...Mauricio T

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to newsletter2008@msca09aa.org