



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

Dec. 2009

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

Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principal; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

This is the capstone for the previous 11 concepts. Like the 12th step describes the rewards of the 12 steps and the 12th Tradition describes the rewards of the 12 Traditions, this Concept describes the rewards of the 12 Concepts. No service body in Alcoholics Anonymous strives harder than the General Service Conference to cleave to the 6 Warranties outlined above. Whoa! Warranties! That's like a guarantee, correct? Absolutely correct.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Give your districts and committees the widest distribution of your needs, activities and events. Have them published here in your Area 09 Newsletter.

Delegate's Corner

Hello Everyone;

It's hard for me to imagine that Panel 58 is almost over. In less than one month, wow. Panel 60 is right around the corner. To say I won't miss it would be a lie.

Let me take this opportunity to say how much every single last one of you, with whom I have had the pleasure to interact has affected my life, along with the challenges and rewards of being of service to Mid-Southern California Area 9; you have given me an experience of a lifetime, experiences that have helped me to grow more than you will ever know. You all have taught me things I never would have learned if I hadn't made myself available to this process. Thank you All!

Now I understand a little better what my dad used to say to me when I was little (can you image that? Me little! lol). He would tell me when he saw me struggling with whatever and I wanted so badly to just give up, he would look at me with those steel grey eyes piercing all the way through

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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.

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Delegate's Corner ...continued from p.1, col. 2

to my soul. "Son," he'd say, "you can't sharpen a knife with Jell-O!" Man, did that ever confuse me! And for the longest time I thought that that was his intent. You know, to get me thinking about something else... distract me from focusing on the seeming impossibility of whatever the task at hand I was struggling with at the time. And it worked. But today I believe I understand exactly what my Dad meant. That it is the challenges, and the difficulty in those challenges, that hone my abilities, strengthens my character. and help to build my integrity. I never would have learned to appreciate life's strife without all of your help.

But that's not all that you have taught me. There is so much more: more than this column will allow at this time.

So please just know that...

I am blessed because of you.

Joe B.

And remember the Japanese proverb:

"The reputation of a thousand years may be determined by the conduct of one hour."

CPC/PI Workshop

On September 26, 2009 a wonderful and successful Alcoholics Anonymous, Area 09 event was held. The event was a collaboration between Area 09, District 22 and many other district level Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and Public Information (PI) Committees, including Districts 4, 6, 21, 22, 23, and 24. The event was called the CPC/PI Workshop and was planned as an informational workshop featuring professional speakers, an Old Timer's Panel and Roundtables.

In early 2009 the DCMC of District 22, Juan Carlos, approached the Area 09 CPC chair to offer the services of District 22 to be the host of the annual CPC/PI workshop for 2009. Juan Carlos suggested the event be held in Indio, CA. This was agreed upon and then the fun and planning began.

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CPC/PI Workshop ...continued from bottom of col.1

The very first planning meeting was held on February 14, 2009 in Indio, CA. In that planning meeting several people volunteered to look for a venue, develop and be responsible for a menu and develop a flyer for distribution among the A.A. community. The date of September 26, 2009 was also agreed upon for the workshop. There was also discussion about approaching trusted servant, Class A Trustee Rogelio Flores to be the main speaker for the workshop.

The CPC/PI Workshop Planning Committee then began meeting once per month to plan and iron out all the details, most often in Indio, sometimes in Anaheim, and sometimes in Moreno Valley. There was, occasionally, loving conversation; but always the end result was that all voices were heard; each item of interest was voted on, and in the end, principles before personalities prevailed.

This author learned a fascinating piece of information during the planning of this workshop. One of the reasons District 22 wanted to host this event was to make every attempt to encourage a particular group of people, originally from Ocumicho, Mexico, and now living in Mecca in Coachella Valley, who spoke a completely separate dialect, not Spanish and not English, and whose incidence of active alcoholism was very high, to attend this workshop. District 22 wanted to carry the message to many still suffering alcoholics in the Purepecha community.

Max O. past DCMC from District 22 provided the following information regarding this very special community:

The Purepecha Community of Mecca, Ca. came to the Coachella Valley around 1965 when the migrant workers program was still in effect.

The A.A. message reached the Tarasco/Purepecha Indians in Ocumicho, Michoacan, Mexico 30 years ago. However, A.A. didn't reach the Purepechas in Coachella Valley until recently.

The first A.A. member from the Purepecha community, Max O., came to A.A. by court card in 1997 and stayed because he Speaks Spanish, English and his native dialect (Purepecha). The tribe in Mexico is called The Tarascos and only about 70% of them speak Spanish and 30% don not. They rely on interpreters both English and Spanish to communicate with the general population. There is a community of about 2500 (first and second generation) members in the Coachella Valley and only about 15 sober members in Alcoholics

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Concept XII ... continued from p.1, col. 1

There are two bodies of thought and principle in Alcoholics Anonymous that our co-founder, Bill W., found to be of supremely vital importance. These 6 warranties are one of those bodies and the 12 Traditions are the other. How do I know that Bill applied such importance to these two collections of principles? Are you aware that the General Service Conference could change Step 12 at their meeting in 2006 to read something like, *"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to the world, and practice these principles in most of our affairs"*. Yep, they could do it with 2/3 of the General Service Conference voting to do so – that's all it takes. But do you know what it takes to change the 12 Traditions or the 6 Warranties listed above? Listen to this: all groups known to the General Service Office in the world would need to be contacted and ¾ of all those responding would have to agree. In other words, it ain't gonna happen!!

Why such importance? Doesn't it seem like a lack of proportion? Well, if you can't see the wisdom in applying such protection to the 12 Traditions, you should probably commit to a Traditions Study for a year or so. But the 6 Warranties – why those? Because, in a very basic sense, these warranties are not warranties to the servants so much as they are warranties to the Fellowship. Bill believed that if we didn't accumulate money and authority in any single place, and especially at the perceived top, Alcoholics Anonymous would surely survive. Upon completing the 12 Concepts, Bill wrote, *"I knew that A.A. was safe at last, even from me"*.

I can add nothing to that.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

Tradition 12 (Long Form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

We of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

District 5 CPC Committee

The District 5 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) committee is looking forward to the next two-year term of being of service in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The major focus of this committee for the 2010 year will be in opening communication with the courts system and law enforcement.

District 5, which includes the cities of Santa Ana, Orange, Villa Park and Tustin, is home to many court and law enforcement facilities. The Central Superior court is located in Santa Ana along with US District court. The city of Orange houses the family and juvenile courts. The Men's and Women's main jails are located in Santa Ana. In Orange there is another men's jail facility.

The State Parole agency has a main office in Santa Ana for the County of Orange. Federal prison inmates are housed at the Santa Ana city jail.

The District includes two community colleges: Santa Ana College and Rancho Santiago College, and one university: Chapman University.

Six different police agencies are located within District 5. The County of Orange District Attorneys office is located within the district as well.

As usual, the committee will be looking for volunteers to carry the messages of Alcoholics Anonymous to the members of the professional community who come in contact with the still struggling alcoholic before AA does.

If you are interested in being a part of the Cooperation with the Professional Community committee please come to the District 5 General Service meeting on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

The CPC committee will meet at 6:45 before the GSR meeting. You do not have to be a GSR to attend and you are welcome to bring a friend.

Hope to see you soon.

*Alex N
District 5 CPC Committee*

CPC/PI Workshop ...continued from p. 2, col. 2

Anonymous. In 2002, Max and two other A.A. members started the first Purepecha speaking meeting and it has now grown to 15 regular members. As far as we know; there are only 2 Purepecha speaking meetings in the U.S.; the one in Mecca, CA and a second meeting in Clearwater, FL.

Max tells us that the people in the community are very grateful to A.A. for what it has done with the current sober A.A. members. They are very respectful and protective of A.A.'s way of life within the community. Some Purepechas have come to A.A. by way of a court card and the majority have come because they like our way of life (attraction). A.A. is alive and well in the Coachella Valley and District 22 along with Area 09 is very active in carrying the message and reaching out to remote communities such as the Purepechas. The current sober A.A. members that are part of the Purepecha community carry the message by way of public information meetings in group anniversaries and other area or district sponsored workshops.

Over thirty (30) letters were sent to various professionals in the greater Indio/Palm Springs areas inviting them personally to attend this event and suggesting they bring peers with them. And the members of the Old Timer's Panel were selected and agreed to participate. The planning committee also agreed that the workshop would be spoken primarily in Spanish with English translation. Class A Trustee Flores agreed to be our main speaker.

A beautiful venue was selected, Valley Missionary Program, in Coachella, that fit all of the requirements of parking, seating space, full kitchen, etc. The menu began to be planned, as did the program. The planning committee decided that there would be four roundtables, at which two pieces of General Service approved A. A. literature would be read and discussed. The literature chosen for the roundtables was [A.A. for the Professional](#), [Problems Other Than Alcohol](#), [Members of the Clergy](#), [A.A. in Your Community](#), [Is There An Alcoholic in Your Workplace?](#), [How A.A. Cooperates With the Professional](#), [Let's Be Friendly With Our Friends and Tradition 6](#).

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CPC/PI Workshop ...continued from previous column

The day of the event arrived and all the planning committee members arrived about 7:00 a.m. to begin setting up and preparing for the event. A great deal of literature was available free of charge for the professionals, general public and recovering alcoholics that attended the workshop. The event went off without a hitch; there were over 110 people in attendance including a number of people from the Purepecha Community. The attendance seemed to be the largest attendance at a CPC/PI annual workshop. The Area 09 Secretary and Treasurer attended, as did a past delegate, along with many professionals.

Many people were involved in the planning of this event, including Roberto C., Juan Carlos, Julian R., Victor H., Eduardo M., Santiago S., Eleuterio H., Francisco D., Bill W., Alfonso L., Fernando C., Fernando T., Jose Roberto, Marco A., Miguel G., Reynaldo F., Jesse O., Raul, Ramon. Forgive this author, if anyone has not been mentioned. There were many, many dedicated and service oriented people involved; those that asked professionals to speak, those that ordered and prepared the food, those that arranged for a venue, those that set up, those that took down and cleaned up and completed all of the myriad duties and responsibilities associated with holding a successful A.A. event.

It was a great joy to work together, actually form new A.A. friendships and watch a beautiful workshop unfold before our very eyes and we are so grateful for the opportunity. Thanks so much to all who participated. The success of the event is directly related to your unfailing service and is very much appreciated. And very special thanks especially to District 22 for being willing to host this very successful event. Without you all, it would not have been possible.

By Michael M

MSCA Forum Topic

The most recent MSCA website Forum Topic is: ["2010 General Service Conference Theme 'Practicing A.A.'s Principals – the Pathway to Unity'"](#) (posted 10-17-2009). To participate in or view this forum, go to msca09aa.org and click on "On-Line Forum of Area 9".

The GSR – Part II ... continued from p.1, col. 2

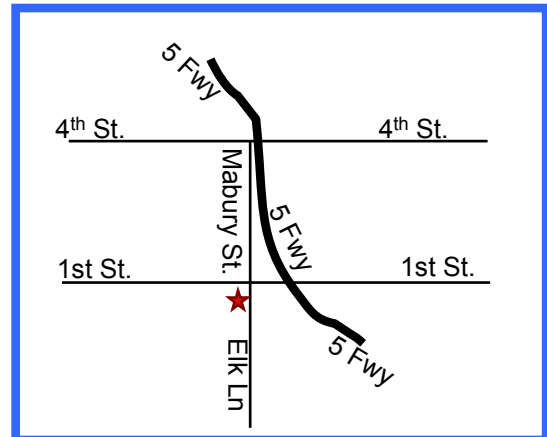
“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect against disintegration while 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 2007, 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

January 10 Assembly 212 S. Elk Lane, Santa Ana, CA



Directions from the North:

Take the 57 freeway south to the 5 freeway
Merge onto I-5 S and drive 3.3 miles.
Take the Fourth Street exit, Exit 104A, toward First St.
Ramp becomes Mabury St.
Stay straight to go onto S. Elk Lane
212 S. Elk Lane is on the right

From the East:

Take the 10 or the 60 west to the 91 fwy.
Take the 91 south/west to the 57 fwy
Take the 57 freeway south to the 5 freeway
Merge onto I-5 S and drive 3.3 miles.
Take the Fourth Street exit, Exit 104A, toward First St.
Ramp becomes Mabury St.
Stay straight to go onto S. Elk Lane

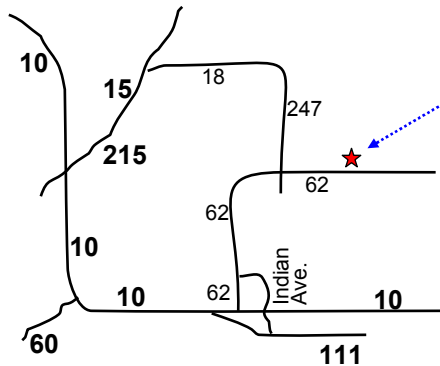
From the Northwest:

Take the 405 south to the 22 fwy
Take the 22 east to the 5 fwy
Take I-5 S exit on the left toward San Diego
Take the Fourth St. exit, Exit 104A, toward First St.
Ramp becomes Mabury St.
Stay straight to go onto S. Elk Lane
212 S. Elk Lane is on the right

From the South:

Take the 5 fwy north, past the 405, and past the 55 fwy.
Take the Fourth St. exit, Exit 103C, toward First St.
Take the ramp toward First St.
Stay straight to go onto Mabury St.
Stay straight to go onto S. Elk Lane
212 S. Elk is on the right.

ASC, Dec. 13, 2009,
59700 29 Palms Hiway, Joshua Tree



Panel 60 Area Officers

Linda C., Delegate
Cesar F., Alternate Delegate
Jeryl T., Chairperson
Sharon K., Secretary
Joseph M., Treasurer
Michael M., Registrar

Panel 58 Area Officers

Delegate: Joe B, 714-423-3808,
delegate2008@msca09aa.org
Alternate Delegate: Mike M
Chair: Jason S
Secretary: Sharon K
Treasurer: Linda H
Registrar: Cesar F

Upcoming Events

Date: Event Type:

- Dec. 13 (Sun) ASC (*vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda*), District 30, Joshua Tree Sjspiritual Retreat Center, 59700 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree, CA 92252
- Jan 10 (Sun) Assembly (District 5) - Santa Ana Elks Lodge, Opal & Emerald Rooms, 212 Elk Lane, Santa Ana, CA 92701-5011
- February 14, 2010 - Sunday - ASC** (District 25)
- March 5, 6 & 7, 2010 - PRAASA 2010** - Radisson Hotel at LAX, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (more info on www.praasa.org)
- March 14, 2010 - ASC** (District 22) -
- April 11, 2010 - Sunday - Pre-Conference Workshop** (District 1) (TBA)
- April - Archives Open House** -
- May 16, 2010 - Sunday - Assembly** (District 15) -
- June 13, 2010 - Sunday - ASC** (District 10) -
- July 1-4, 2010 - International Convention** - San Antonio, TX
- July 11, 2010 - Sunday - Foro** (District 21 and 3) -
- August 8, 2010 - Sunday - ASC** (District 7) -
- Aug 27-29 - Pacific Regional Forum**, Torrance Marriot, Torrance CA
- September 12, 2010 - Sunday - Assembly** (District 20) -
- October 10, 2010 - Sunday - ASC** (District 4) -
- October 24, 2010 - Sunday - Heritage Day** (District 6) -
- November 14, 2010 - Sunday - Servathon** (District 12) -
- December 12, 2010 - Sunday - ASC** (District 19)

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:00 am....GSR/DCM/DCMC Schools, Delegate's Rpt
10 am..... Committee Mtgs
11:30 am... Lunch
12 noon ... ASC or Assembly mtg

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	Finance Committee Chair...Joseph M
CEC Chair...Rick H	Grapevine Chair...Kimberli A
	La Viña Chair...Angela R
Communications Committee Chair...Linda C	GSR School...John H
Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Steve S	GSR School, Spanish... Paco G
Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Henry B	Literature Chair... Ernesto M
Web Coordinator...Becky B	Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ...tbd
Equipment Subcommittee Chair...Al W	Public Information Chair...tbd
Translation Subcommittee Chair...Jorge	Public Info., Sp...Francisco D
	Registration...David T
Convention Liaison...Mike	Special Needs Chair...tbd
Convention Liaison, Span...Jose A	Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tbd
Corrections Chair...Alex O	Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F
CPC Chair...Michael M	
CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S	
DCM School...Scott R	Sound Dude... Raul C
DCM School Spanishtbd	Coffee person...Mauricio T

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