



# 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)

Aug 2009

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

## Carrying the Message to the Professional Community...and beyond!

It is a wonderful gift to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous. The Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC) in Area 09 was asked by the General Service Board to be of service at two conferences, one in June and one in July 2009. And before this articles goes any further, CPC would not have been able to perform this service without the help and goodwill of many people, including Bill W., Bruce and Linda H., Eduardo, Garry B., Jeryl, Jesus O., Jim and Linda C., Joey P., Keith S., Leandro, Nick and Tara, Paco, Pete and Patti, Rivo, Rozanne, Santiago and Yvonne B. It's always fabulous working with each and every one of you. Thank you all very much for your time and service.

In June, CPC and volunteers staffed the Alcoholics Anonymous booth and led open and closed Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, beginning June 10, 2009 at 2pm and ending June 12, 2009 at 6pm. There were three open and closed A.A. meetings per day, one in the early a.m., one at noon and one in the evening, and CPC and volunteers were able to lead ten of the eleven A.A. meetings scheduled. We all had to remember not to clap.....because most of the people attending the meetings were from out of state and California A.A.s seem to be the only people who clap at their meetings. There were approximately 2,500 attendees at this conference and many of them made a point of coming to the A.A. booth to thank us for leading the A.A. meetings and having them available.

As many as 85% of the attendees that visited the A.A. booth said, "I'm a friend of Bill W., you know?" It was like being at a miniature International, surrounded by like-minded, happy, joyous and free individuals. Hundreds were interested in receiving the A.A. Letter to Professionals that the General Service Office mails out free of charge every quarter. And many of them also wanted to receive the free packet of pamphlets and literature that GSO sends to professionals.

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## Delegate's Corner

Hello Everyone;

I was looking at the fishing pole on my wall the other day and wondering how it got covered with cobwebs all of a sudden. Then that made me think... I left some bait in my fishing vest and when I went to check, sure enough it was still there, but it didn't smell like bait anymore; as a mater of fact it didn't smell like anything. It had set in there for so long it had almost turned to powder. I know you're thinking, "What has this got to do with recovery, the state of the Area or the General Service Office? Man, this guy has lost all his marbles!" or something like that. Well, maybe I have. I haven't been fishing for almost two years. And I *love* fishing.

Twenty months ago I started on a journey and I could never have imagined how or where I would end up. I've had more challenges than I could have dreamed of and experienced an awakening that will be etched permanently into my heart and memory. And I've met some of the finest people in the world: quite a few of them, mind you, I met in New York at the conference and through work we have done, but in no way did I meet them all there, not at all. Working with the districts and groups, having been invited to so many different events, being pulled aside, talked to and having been asked many a questions (some I even had answers to), and the phone calls and e-mails; O! the e-mails...! Watching the growth in those that have come to the Area and watching as the spark of service is lit, and seeing those who have been here for some time recommit over and over again. I see that I have put myself in the middle of a wonderful, loving mechanism of action. Kind of like a time machine... not the kind that takes you back in time, but the type that makes you say, "Where did the time go?"

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## Carrying the Message to the Professional

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This was a very busy conference. Many attendees stopped by in a regular stream and wanted information, literature, an A.A. meeting schedule for the conference or just to chat. The staff of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals were fabulous to work with, making meeting schedule copies for us, stopping by to see if we needed anything, and just being all around great hosts. The conference seemed to come to an end very quickly and I, for one, was on a spiritual and gratitude high for many days afterwards.

And then came the really big and lengthy conference with an attendance of 15,000 people. It was the National Episcopal Church Conference and the conference was held at the Anaheim Convention Center from July 7 through July 16, 2009. I was astounded to learn that this conference has met 76 times...**and they only meet once every three years!** That means the conference has been meeting for 218 years

Our A.A. booth was situated right in between the Recovering Ministries Booth and the Recovered Alcoholic Clergy Association Booth. The Recovered Alcoholic Clergy Association had free, (and from what I heard everyone say) delicious coffee all day, every day. One of the women staffing one of the other booths disclosed that she is the treasurer of the 2010 International AA Convention Host Committee. On both sides of us, we had recovering alcoholics to talk with and share with every day. It was like having mini-meetings all day long. The fellowship was wonderful.

The Recovered Alcoholic Clergy Association people established an open A.A. meeting every day at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Hilton. We were grateful to be able to participate in several of the meetings.

We met many, many people. One Bishop showed me his 35-year chip, which gave me goose bumps. We met and shook hands with Class A Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing, which was a tremendous honor. We met men, elders and "youngers", we met women, also elders and "youngers" who were priests with little children in strollers, we met very happy young people and had the opportunity to share about ACYPAA and ICYPAA, and many of the people we met disclosed to us that they were recovering alcoholics.

There were so many funny or hilarious or profound or sad or heartbreaking or interesting bits of wisdom that people shared with us as they stopped to chat or passed us by, that we wanted to share some of them with you:

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## Tradition 8

*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.

### Concept 8

#### – Oversight Versus Over-Management

**Concept 8 (Short Form)** *The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.*

Continuing in the vein of Concepts 6 and 7, this Concept further defines the role of the General Service Board. Ever aware of the continuing danger to our Fellowship of the unchecked quest for money and authority, Bill W. writes in his essay on Concept 8, **"However, experience dating from our earliest days strongly suggests that future Trustees and service workers, in the supposed interests of accounting simplicity, tax savings, and hoped-for efficiency, will be periodically tempted to go in for concentrations and consolidations of one kind or another. Should this be again attempted, we know that the risk of making an administrative shambles out of the total operation will be great indeed"**. Throughout the essay on Concept 8 Bill reinforces the idea that the best style of management for a business is, well, a type of business management. This Concept grants oversight of the two corporations wholly owned by A.A. – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS) and the Grapevine, Inc. directly to the General Service Board. It also instructs that the Board of Trustees should not and cannot be directly involved in the daily, weekly and monthly management of these two corporations. They are granted the power to elect the Directors of the corporations, (subject to approval by the General Service Conference), after which, the Trustees are instructed to "plan, manage and execute" their own duties and leave the management of the two corporations to the responsible boards.

As much as any other principle, this Concept has been directly responsible for allowing the entities of A.A. that are involved in business matters to manage those business affairs without constant second-guessing, (but, as you would expect, this still goes on, somewhat) and allows the Groups to tend to the matters of 12th Step work. This is where the material is truly separated from the spiritual. Now the real reason this Concept works is found in the next Concept – Concept 9. I'll give you a hint – Concept 9 deals with Leadership.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

## Carrying the Message to the Professional ... continued from p.2, col. 1

An older woman said, "I am fourteen days sober today." We told her she was the most important person at that Convention and shook her hand and congratulated her.

A man said, "I'm still drinking and I'm enjoying every minute of it."

A man relayed this story: "It was the early '60s and I was living in Detroit and was coming up on a birthday. I wanted to go to a meeting in Warren, Michigan to celebrate my birthday and asked my sponsor to come with me. My sponsor agreed to attend the meeting with me. We arrived early, sat down at the table, and everyone in the room got up and walked out. My sponsor was black. That's how much times have changed."

"Do you know, one of our parishioners actually \*died\* of alcohol poisoning, can you believe it??? I told her she should go to AA, but she never did...I miss her terribly." A clergy member walked by and said, "I don't know any alcoholics." A visitor shared a greeting from India: The God in me meets and greets the God in you. "I sponsored a young man from Iran who was in this country and he went back to Iran and began A.A. meetings there and is still carrying the message there." "My son's in AA--six years--he's about to graduate from the Police Academy--and he'll make a better patrolman because he'll understand what he's up against." "I'm a grateful member of another 12-step program (maintaining a 100-pound weight loss) and want to tell AA 'thank you' for starting it all for the rest of us." A clergy member walked by and said, "I don't have any alcoholics in my church." Another clergy member said, "You know what they say about us, wherever four of us are gathered, there's always a 'fifth'!" In response to the question, "Do you work with alcoholics?".... "I sure do. My wife's one!" "Thank you for your ministry--God loves you!" "Do you know where I can get some pamphlets or books for small children to explain why they can't see their grandma anymore?" "Do a lot of people stop by and talk to you?" "Hi, my name's Ward Ewing." "I'm getting my degree in Social Work and I'm in the middle of a class on drug and alcohol dependency. May I take some pamphlets?" "We have 14 A.A. meetings a week in our church. You sure reach a lot of people. Thank you!" "Do you have a meeting directory? We're from out of town and our daughter needs a meeting, but she has to take her 2-year-old with her." "We're from the Philippines. I think we have one sober priest in AA there."

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## Carrying the Message to the Professional ... continued from p.3, col. 1

A clergy declared in one of the open A.A. meetings, "I've got a year and a half and the last time I was at one of these (three years earlier) I was still drinking. I am very grateful to this meeting because they (the conference) have functions every night and everybody drinks, so now I just go and have Seven-Up. This meeting has definitely helped me to maintain my sobriety." "We don't need any literature--everyone in our church who needs AA is already sober." Two clergy from Liberia stopped at the A.A. booth and said, "We have many alcoholics in our country but no Alcoholics Anonymous." The gentlemen were given the telephone number of the International Desk at GSO and one of the people staffing the A.A. booth sent an email to the International Desk at GSO with the names and telephone numbers of the gentlemen and a note that they wished to be contacted to learn how to begin A.A. meetings in Liberia. Talk about helping one alcoholic....this is helping a country! And, lastly: The sign in the booth across from the A.A. booth said: "Wisdom is merely knowing the right questions to ask." Old Quaker saying. It has been a wonderful experience for CPC to be able to be of service at these conferences. Sobriety gives us so many opportunities. If we helped one struggling alcoholic to get to a meeting and begin sobriety, that's why we were there....to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic and to those who come in contact with us on a daily basis. Again, thanks so much to all the volunteers who helped to staff the A.A. booth. This could not have been done without you. And a big thanks to GSO for giving us this opportunity to be of service.

Michael M.C.P.C. Chair

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

Although, when it is time for me to rotate out of this position in a few months, I will not be done with service. I will be looking for something that I can do to help. I do not know what just now, but I will find something to do. Maybe dust off that fishing pole and get some new bait, go stand in the stream for a bit... until I remember why that pole got so dusty and all my bait dried up in the first place. And that is because I love to be of service to this organization that has shown me a new way to live.

There is a lot of work to be done, let's get out there and do it.

Peace Joe B.

"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love." ~ Mother Teresa

## Grapevine News

Some important Grapevine address changes:

The New York office  
AA Grapevine, Inc.  
475 Riverside Dr.  
10th floor  
New York, NY 10115

note: the P.O. Box in Grand Central Station is closing this year.

Grapevine customer service  
P.O. Box 422487  
Palm Coast, FL 32142 – 2487

La Vina  
P.O. Box 422483  
Palm Coast, FL 32142 – 2483

Note: Palm Coast, Florida replaces both the Marion, Ohio and Boulder, Colorado mailing addresses previously used by our Grapevine subscription fulfillment company.

## Upcoming Events

| <u>Date:</u>           | <u>Event Type:</u>  |
|------------------------|---|
| Aug. 9 (Sun)           | ASC, 124 N. Ramona St, Hemet, Ca 92543 at the American legion Hall ( <i>vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda</i> ), Dist 14 |
| Sept. 13 (Sun)         | ASSEMBLY, Dist 2, Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Ave, Lakewood, CA  |
| Special Two Day Event: |   |
| Oct. 10 (Sat)          | MSC AREA 9 50TH ANNIVERSARY, Area 9   |
| Oct. 11 (Sun)          | ELECTION ASSEMBLY, District12   |
| Nov. 8 (Sun)           | ASC (Proposals will be presented but not voted on), District 17   |
| Nov. 14 (Sun)          | SERVATHON, District 9   |
| Dec. 13 (Sun)          | ASC ( <i>vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda</i> ), District 30  |

### 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.

### Panel 58 Area Officers

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

### 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 Vina 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 ...tdb    |
| Equipment Subcommittee Chair...Al W            | Public Information Chair...tdb         |
| Translation Subcommittee Chair...Jorge         | Public Info., Sp...Francisco D         |
|  | Registration...David T                 |
| Convention Liaison...Mike                      | Special Needs Chair...tdb              |
| Convention Liaison, Span...Jose A              | Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tdb |
| 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 Spanish .....tdb                    | Coffee person...Mauricio T             |

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to [newsletter2008@msca09aa.org](mailto:newsletter2008@msca09aa.org)