

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

February 2009

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



GSR Preamble History

The GSR Preamble

We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.

We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.

Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.

History:

The GSR Preamble as stated above, got its start right here in Southern California and Area 9 in particular. During the time that Genevieve L. was the Panel 24 (1974-75) Delegate of Mid-Southern California Area 9, someone came up with a Preamble to read at Area meetings which was quite a strong directive to GSRs making them the ultimate authority over Alcoholics Anonymous. Gene asked Goldene L., who was the Area Treasurer at the time, to come up with something to soften this Preamble. She did and she came up with the one they are still using today. Goldene L. would later go on and serve as Area 9 Panel 28 (1978-79) Delegate.

The Central Intergroup Office of the Desert, Palm Springs, California printed the G.S.R. Preamble in its May 1988 issue of their newsletter. The GSO staff picks up on it and ran short article and reprints the preamble in the August/September 1989 issue of Box 459. This preamble is being used in many of the Areas throughout the United States and Canada today.

(source: Goldene L. interview, March 2, 2004 & Box 459)

Delegate's Corner

Hello everyone;

I am so excited about this upcoming year!

I want to remind everyone that PRAASA is just around the corner, it will be in Oakland CA March 6th-8th, 2009. I would like to inform you of a little news, which is... all of the rooms have been reserved at the Marriott Oakland City Center hotel (in other words, the rooms are all gone at the host hotel) If you are planning to attend and have not made reservations yet, visit the PRAASA 09 website - www.praasa.org – and go to the Hotel Information page for more information about overflow hotels. If you would like to volunteer to help at this year PRAASA you can e-mail - praasa09.volunteers@gmail.com – we have also posted updated flyers on our MSCA web site. - www.msca09aa.org -

I will have lots of information for everyone at the February ASC, including a short report of my experience at the General Service Board weekend in New York.

Thanks you all for this opportunity to serve.

Joe B.

Concept II (Long Form)

When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference – excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter – the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

Ducks in a Row



Do you like keeping your ducks in a row??

Were you once a supply sergeant or inventory manager? Do you love to keep track of things, keep meticulous records? Are you competent to research and evaluate electronic equipment?

The COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (CESC) NEEDS YOU for the rest of 2009!

What does the CESC do? As part of the Area Communications Committee (ACC), the CESC, always in cooperation with the Finance Committee, is charged with the following:

Maintaining an inventory of the following equipment owned by MSCA:

- audio/visual equipment,
- translation equipment,
- software,
- computers and printers, and

When requested by the ACC, the CESC is responsible for researching, evaluating and preparing a written recommendation (including cost estimates) for any electronic equipment, computer software or repairs to electronic equipment. In most instances, it is strongly suggested that at least three sources, along with the corresponding cost estimates, be provided as part of the evaluation.

Will take responsibility for the lawful disposal of any broken equipment or obsolete software having to do with communication equipment as described above.

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Ducks in a row ... continued from col. 1

On an annual basis, in the third quarter, prepare a report of all electronic equipment that would be a candidate for replacement, with costs and prioritization for the purchases. This report would be presented to the ACC Chair no later than September 30th of each year. The preparation of this report is a year-long activity. The CESC should work closely with all MSCA standing committees and sub-committees, the Area Officers committee and especially with the Area Finance Committee for the purpose of ensuring that a comprehensive, accurate and prudent report is prepared.

OFFICERS: The sub-committee shall have a Chair and Alternate Chair. The term of office is two (2) years beginning January 1 of even numbered years. The officers shall be elected biannually prior to even-numbered years within the Area Communications Committee by a simple majority vote.

MEMBERSHIP: This sub-committee should have a workable contingent of members. The Area Audio Equipment Operator (Sound Dude) is a voting member of this sub-committee. It is desirable that this sub-committee recruits and retains a list of names and contact information of A.A. members competent in the research and evaluation of electronic equipment of all kinds necessary to meet the electronic equipment needs of MSCA.

MEETINGS: The CESC will meet at each Area Service Committee meeting and Area Assembly and other times as necessary.

FUNDING: The CESC will prepare and submit a budget for this sub-committee to the Area Communications Committee Chairperson no later than August of each year.

FULL DISCLOSURE: This position does not carry a voting right at the Area Assembly. You're in it for the spiritual rewards!

Contact Linda C., ACC Chair at LINDA@LJE.COM

District 17 – Area 9 presenting
Twelve Traditions Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Unity Hall

27732 Encanto Dr.

Sun City, CA 92685

Sobriety Count Down

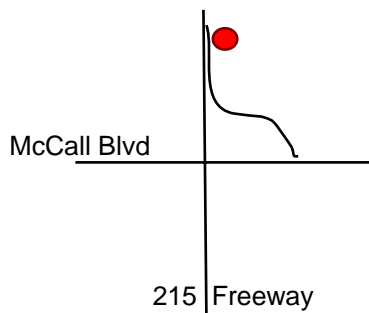
Come join us and learn about the Traditions

Free Raffle

Refreshments will be served

Questions and Answers

It's free



New Forum Topic

The most recent Area 9 website forum topic is: "2009 General Conference Theme: Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message--Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action"

The Area 9 Forum (see www.msca09aa.org) is a place where you can say what's on your mind about AA topics, and respond to what others are writing on that topic. Area 9 meetings and workshops have long been forums for sharing opinions on AA General Service, and we hope you will participate in this internet medium. As always, in AA discussions, let's make sure we treat each other with respect even when we disagree.

Website (www.msca09aa.org) usage

In December, 2008, our website experienced an average of 162 sessions (visitors) per day, and an average of 1468 hits per day. The page entitled "How to Find an AA Meeting" is still the most often visited page on our website. The 2nd most often visited page is the Calendar of Events page.

Money Does Buy Happiness with Spirituality Too!

2009 is here and so are taxes, PRAASA planning, 4-DCM Sharing Session in Oceanside and more challenges.

MSCA 09 is blessed with Groups, Conventions and Individuals that are willing to contribute to the services that have saved their lives.

I started asking individuals last year for contributions of at least \$1.00 or \$1.00 x years of sobriety to help us combat the economic slump we are in today. After going to the P.O. Box Saturday, I found out how generous my fellow alcoholics were to have "money & spirituality mix". \$80.00 in individual contributions, plus \$20.00 from 1/4/2009=\$100.00. Plus the groups trying to keep up their contributions.

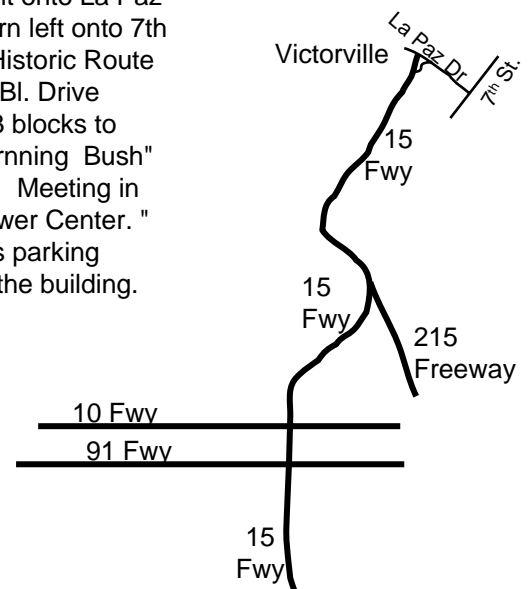
I thank all who have contributed, because you truly understand that we have important work to do. Those who have deep pockets often forget where they would be, if not for a ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. I know I am.

Sorry for such a short article, but I have to get back to the Contributions.

*Thru love and service,
Linda H., Panel 58 Treasurer*

ASC Feb 8, 2009

"The Power Center", 14849 7th Street, Victorville CA 92395. From the intersection of the 91 and the 15 freeway, drive north on the 15 freeway 53.2 miles to Victorville. From the 15 freeway, in Victorville, take the Roy Rogers Drive exit. Then turn right onto La Paz Dr., Turn left onto 7th Street/Historic Route 66/I-15 Bl. Drive about 3 blocks to the "Burning Bush" Church. Meeting in the "Power Center." There is parking behind the building.



PRAASA coming Mar. 6-8

The 42nd PRAASA Assembly will be held at the Marriott City Center Hotel and Convention Center at 1001 Broadway, Oakland CA, 94607. The program will start at approximately 1pm on Friday March 6th and end at noon on the 8th.

The convention hotel is close to the 880 Freeway and Oakland International Airport. Travel from the airport to the hotel will be by shuttle and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train. BART trains are also available from the San Francisco International Airport and a BART station is just two blocks from the hotel.

The on-line registration system can be accessed at www.praasa.org. You may either register on-line (following the instructions on that website) or you may download and print out the forms from that website for filling-out and snail-mailing.

What is PRAASA?

PRAASA is the Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly. It is a yearly assembly held in different parts of the Pacific Region of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The purpose of PRAASA is to develop greater unity among the members, groups, and Areas of the Pacific Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA. The Assembly and the PRAASA committee should always foster the Recovery, Unity and Service legacies of AA.

PRAASA 09 Hotel Accommodations

All rooms at the Marriott City Center hotel have been reserved.

However, there are 30 rooms available at the nearby Marriott Emeryville (5555 Shellmound Street Emeryville, California 94608 USA, Tel: 1-510-652-8777) and 100 rooms available at the Executive Inn and Suites (1755 Embarcadero Oakland, CA 94606, Tel: 510-536-6633) at the \$107 rate. If you have not yet made your hotel reservations, please make your reservations immediately and mention Pacific Region (PRAASA) for the discounted rate. Shuttle service is available on a first come first serve basis and a fee may be charged for large groups.

In Memory of Mary Ann M.

In December 2008, AA lost one of its most trusted servants. She died sober with over 30 years of sobriety, but the length of her sobriety was not why most of us will remember her. We will remember her because of her service.

I first met Mary Ann M. around the end of the year in 1981. At the time I was coming up on two years of sobriety. I had picked up the brochure that stated that the General Service Representative (GSR) may be the most important job in AA, and was interested. I didn't understand much of the information in the brochure, but I was intrigued and found out that my home group did not have a GSR. I ran unopposed (volunteered) for the position, and found out that the monthly District 6 meeting was in a parochial school classroom in Huntington Beach.

There were about 5 other GSR's present that night plus Mary Ann, who was the District Committee Member (DCM). They were studying the AA Service Manual, and the Twelve Concepts for World Service. I don't remember much about the Service Manual, or the Twelve Concepts, but I do remember that Mary Ann was kind, welcoming, enthusiastic about General Service, and a great example of the way we work together for the good of AA. I have been connected with General Service in one way or another ever since, and have always valued her example.

In the months and years following that first district meeting, I met Mary Ann in many different service functions. I met her at Intergroup gatherings, H & I orientations, Conventions, and of course regular AA meetings. The one thing I noticed was that where there was a need, she was always willing to give of her time and experience.

She slipped away from us quietly, but she left an enormous hole in our hearts, and will be missed by all those she touched. She leaves several opportunities to participate in service vacant and ready for others to step up as she always did.

Jim C.

Tradition 2 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Upcoming Events

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event Type:</u>	<u>Day:</u>
Feb. 8	ASC (Proposals will be presented but not voted on), Dist 19 "The Power Center", 14849 7th Street, Victorville CA 92395	SUNDAY
Mar. 6-8	PRAASA, Oakland, California, Pacific Region	Fri-Sun
Mar. 15	ASC (<i>vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda</i>), Dist 21	SUNDAY
Apr 5	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, Dist 8	SUNDAY
May 17	ASSEMBLY, Dist 25	SUNDAY
June 14	ASC (Proposals will be presented but not voted on), Dist 24	SUNDAY
July 12	FORO de MSCA, Dist 23 & 11	SUNDAY
Aug. 9	ASC (<i>vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda</i>), Dist 14	SUNDAY
Sept. 13	ASSEMBLY, Dist 2	SUNDAY
 Special Two Day Event:		
Oct. 10	MSC AREA 9 50TH ANNIVERSARY, Area 9	SATURDAY
Oct. 11	ELECTION ASSEMBLY, District12	SUNDAY
Nov. 8	ASC (Proposals will be presented but not voted on), District 17	SUNDAY
Nov. 14	SERVATHON, District 9	SATURDAY
Dec. 13	ASC (<i>vote which proposals to put onto Assembly Agenda</i>), District 30	SUNDAY

Panel 58 Area Officers

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

Chair: Jason S Treasurer: Linda H
 Secretary: Ruth D 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 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 ...tdb
Equipment Subcommittee Chair...tdb	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, Spn..Jose A	Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tdb
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F
CPC Chir...Michael M	
CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S	
DCM School...Scott R	Sound Dude... Raul C
DCM School Spanishtdb	Coffee person...Mauricio T

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