



# 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)

March 2010

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

## Archives Events

### The Prequel to AA

Your MSCA Archives Committee will be hosting their annual Open House on Sunday, March 21, 2010. The theme for this year's Open House is "The Prequel to AA." The doors will open at 9 am with the program, featuring guest Jay S., starting at 10 am.

Jay S., sober since May 2, 1979, has extensively studied the history of the events that lead to the founding of AA. Jay will lead us on the journey from the Washingtonians to the Oxford Group and how the Oxford Group carried the message to Ebby T. In a second presentation, Jay will show us what happened to the people who carried the message to Ebby and what happened to the Oxford Group.

The MSCA Archives is located at 7111-B Arlington, Riverside CA 92503 in the Riverside Airpark (between the Riverside Airport and Van Buren Blvd.). For more information call (951) 785-0845.

### Movie Night at the Archives

Your Archives Committee will be presenting on Saturday, March 20, 2010 "28 Days" starring Sandra Bullock as a big-city newspaper columnist who is forced to enter a drug and alcohol rehab center after ruining her sister's wedding and crashing a stolen limousine.

*...continued on page 3, col. 2*

### 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

I received the final **Conference agenda items**, as well as all the **background material**. I have given out copies of the agenda items to all who attended the Service Committee meeting. I've given the background material to some of the Area Committee chairs who will be chairing the roundtable discussions at our **Pre-Conference workshop on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>** ...the rest will be given out soon.

I look forward to seeing many GSRs, as well as District officers and committee members at **PRAASA** and then at the **Pre-Conference Workshop**. I'm doing my best to prepare for the Conference, and need help from as many members of our Area as possible.

Please contact me by phone, by mail, or by email (all my addresses are in the Area Roster) if you have ideas, questions, concerns or suggestions.

I am also looking forward to visiting more of our Districts before the Conference, and, of course, all of them afterward to give you my Conference Report.

### Synopsis of GSC Agenda Items:

*Agenda:* Review suggestions for the theme, presentation/discussion topics, and workshop topic for the 2011 conference; Review the Conference Evaluation Form.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC):** Review Kit and Workbook.

**Corrections:** Consider various changes to pamphlets: "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell", "Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities", "AA in Correctional Facilities", and "A Message to Corrections Professionals"; discuss report on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents; review Kit and Workbook.

*...continued on page 4, col. 1*



## PRAASA Experience

I have been sober since February, 1993, and I have not experienced what I experienced in, of all places, Anchorage, Alaska last weekend. I have taken the steps. I have taken scores of people through the steps. I have gone to countless meetings and done a lot of service...Secretary, coffee maker, greeter, etc. I have seen the light come on, as well as seen it go out in people over the past fifteen years. But what I saw, heard and felt in Alaska will have a lasting impression on my life and on my recovery forever.

PRAASA which stands for, Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly, is held once a year in a host city, where GSR's, DCM's, DCMC's, Delegates, Past Delegates, Committee Chairs, and other Service position people meet to discuss ideas and experience about service. Service Assembly? Who wants to get with a bunch of dried up AAs and talk about service? I have heard about this event for years, and always judged its effectiveness against that of just going to a meeting and sharing solution. I realized how small I have been making myself with that kind of thinking.

Many gathered, there, to exchange ideas and solutions that they have found to be effective as they have served their various areas. One trusted servant, a lady who lived 200 miles away in little Russia town, had to travel half way around the world just to get there for this experience. From her home town, she traveled to Moscow. Then, from Moscow to Atlanta, Georgia. From Atlanta to Seattle. And from there, she was able to get to Anchorage...200 miles away from her home....We all cried! My only concern for years has been that I know

someone is being born today who will need AA in 20 years, and I just want AA to be there. But after this experience, I know there are many working to make that dream a reality. I have pages and pages of notes, numbers, directories and new friends from all around the Pacific Region, and a new kindled fire for Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have an immense gratitude for the knowledge that lives will be affected...lives will be saved...lives will become fed by that Power that presides over us all. This Assembly of Alcoholics represented the vine, rooted and nurtured in the Spirit of Love and Service that connects all AA members to one and other in the most divine way. These people humbly gathered to discuss how we can better serve AA, with care, gratitude, and a sense of service, under the guidance of God as He expresses Himself in our collective consciousness.

I thank those of you who are in service, who have gently nudged me into this new chamber in my recovery...the Chamber of General Service! My life has been impacted and will continue as I decompress over the next few weeks. I am truly blessed to be in an area of the country where we have such a strong commitment to service. Through H&I, Intergroup and General Service, I know the message is getting to the still sick alcoholic who wants to recover. I thank each and every one of you who serve AA so that AA can serve God.

*That was 2 years ago, and I am so excited about this year's event, which will be right here in LA. I hope to see many of you there, and hope that you too can have the PRAASA Experience that I and many others have benefited from. See you there!! ...Jeryl T.*

### Concept 3: The Right of Decision

*Concept 3 - To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. -- the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives -- with a traditional "Right of Decision."* "C'mon, you're telling me I have a "right of decision"? Well, fine, then I am making the decision to stay as far away as possible from any of that political crap! What does that have to do with my sobriety?!"

That's right, you have the "right of decision". And as long as you sit comfortably in your home group and don't participate in service outside the group, you don't have to worry about any "right of decision". You've made your decision - the same decision that the majority of A.A. members make – I'm not going to get involved in all that politics!

Of course, there just might be a downside to that thinking. While everyone who participates in service outside the home group is making decisions that effect all of A.A., including your home group, you sit ignorantly by on the sidelines. (*Now, don't get mad at me for calling you ignorant, I'm just quoting Herbert Spencer, from appendix II of the Big Book*).

"But there are no decisions they make that affect me". Well, that could be true, but do you have a Big Book? A fourth edition? That was a decision that was made in the year 2000 to add 23 new stories, and maybe remove one or more of your favorites. And when you turn to page 449 in your Big Book, does it give you that sage advice on acceptance, like it always has? Or is that missing from page 449?

"What happened to it? Who said **they**, (yes, it's **them** again!) could change that"? Why, you did, of course, when you abrogated your right of decision and gave it to others, you know those political types.

"Well, that's in the past, there's nothing I can do about that". Uh-huh. Did you know that we have discussed modifying a piece of A.A. literature to say that "only those with a drinking problem may attend closed A.A. meetings".? Whatever happened to "a desire to stop drinking" – our 3rd Tradition?

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### Concept 3: The Right of Decision ...continued from col.1

Well, those groups that send GSR's and Intergroup Reps to the monthly meetings will make those decisions, and your group has an Intergroup Rep, so you can tell your Rep how to vote on everything. Uh, not quite. That is the heart of the "right of decision". Your rep is vested with the right to make the best decision for all of A.A., which sometimes differs with what the group would prefer. It happens more often than you think. When your Rep gets to the monthly meeting, they will hear a diversity of experience that they might not hear in your home group. Based on this new experience, the Rep is vested with the "Right of Decision".

*Nick M., Past Delegate, Panel 48*

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### Movie Night ...continued from p.1, col.1

After getting into a car accident while drunk on the day of her sister's wedding, Gwen Cummings (Sandra Bullock) is given a choice between prison or a rehab center. She chooses rehab, but is extremely resistant to taking part in any of the treatment programs they have to offer, refusing to admit that she has an alcohol addiction. After getting to know some of the other patients, Gwen gradually begins to re-examine her life and see that she does, in fact, have a serious problem. The path to recovery will not be easy, and success will not be guaranteed or even likely, but she is now willing to give it a try.

Doors open at 7 pm with the movie starting at 7:30 pm. The cost is free. Bring lawn chairs or chaise lounges and enjoy a classic movie about alcoholism and recovery. Refreshments will be served.

The Archives is located at 7111-B Arlington, Riverside CA 90503 in the Riverside Airpark, next to the Riverside Airport. For more information, call (951) 785-0845.

### 2010 MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

*All dates are Saturday*

28 Days	March 20
Days of Wine & Roses (1958)	April 17
Clean and Sober (1988)	May 15
Come Fill The Cup (1951)	June 19

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

**Finance:** Review questions from the Fellowship on: 1. *If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit? And 2. If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?* ...and consider changes to the pamphlet "Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

Including replacing the pie charts with a statement about each group being autonomous, include information about the Grapevine, and request to include Seventh Tradition stories.

**AA Grapevine:** Review Workbook; consider collections of stories for possible publication in the future; Review report pertaining to the relationship between the GV Board, GV office, and the Conference Committee on the decision-making process of matters affecting the Fellowship (e.g. pricing, redesign, name change & promotional items).

**La Vina:** Consider requested changes to La Vina including 1. *Publishing in color*, 2. *Same binding as the Grapevine (called "perfect binding") or sewn binding*; and 3. *More stories in each edition*.

**Literature:** Review the pamphlet "The AA Member—Medications and Other Drugs" and draft pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship"; Consider developing conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in AA; Consider changes and revisions in various publications including "Frequently Asked Questions in AA", "AA and the Armed Services", "Living Sober" booklet; Consider request to define editorial responsibility of GSO's Publication Dept.; Consider updating video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine & the General Service Structure"; consider development of a book on the history of "early pioneer women in AA."

**Policy/Admissions:** Consider admission for an Alt. Delegate in place of a Delegate who resigned; approve invitations for two observers from GSB in Venezuela; review dates of 2013 Conference; Review GSBoard report regarding the GS Conference undertaking a comprehensive inventory of itself; Discuss GS Board report regarding development of procedures for submission of Concept V minority appeals to the GS Conference.

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

**Public Information:** Consider 2009 Annual Web sit Report; Consider approving proposed 2010 TV PSA "My World" and that it be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated; review current PSAs for relevance and usefulness; assess the need for a new TV PSA; consider additional statement to pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" to clarify importance of not breaking anonymity of living AA members in memorial announcements; consider approving Young People's video with the working title "Animation" as part of Young People's Video Project; Consider trustees' report on the Young People's Video Project; Consider several changes to "AA at a Glance"; consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying AA members in Conference-approved visual media; consider submitting a Conference them "Anonymity in the Digital Age"; review kit and workbook.

**Report & Charter:** Service Manual: Review revisions from GV Board, AAWS Board, GSBoard; review editorial updates; consider request to publish Service Manual every other year and in years not published, distribute supplement of changes, and publish the AA directories in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published; consider request that Service Manual be published only as necessary and consider publishing every 3 to 5 years with changes sent as inserts; consider request to gather sharing from the Fellowship about general nature of the Service Manual; Consider request that areas may choose to opt-out of the 30-day pending period to complete processing of new groups; discuss directories; discuss General Service Final Report.

**Treatment Facilities:** Review trustees' report regarding proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet; consider suggestion to change "Treatment Facilities" to "Treatment" in the Conference Committee name and in related AA literature; consider two locally created forms (one for treatment clients and one for AA members willing to serve as temporary sponsors); review kit and workbook; review contents of Special Needs kit and workbook.

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**Delegate's Corner** ... continued  
from p.4, col.2

**Trustees:** Review resumes of candidates for Pacific Regional Trustee and Eastern Canada Regional Trustee; review slates of trustees and officers of the GS Board of AA, directors of AAWS, and directors of AA Grapevine Inc; discuss suggestion to clarify wording in Service Manual concerning nominating a regional trustee candidate.

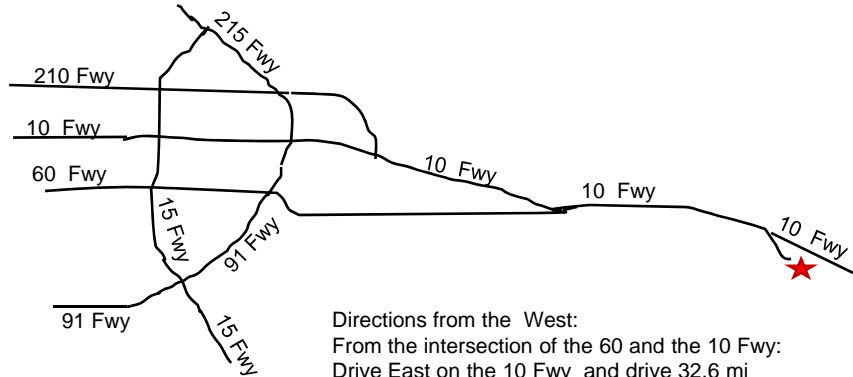
**Archives:** Review Workbook; review trustees' report on feasibility of developing a format (e.g. Power Point) for self-guided tour of GSO's AA Archives.

**International Conventions/Regional Forums:**

Discuss the upcoming 2010 International Convention in San Antonio; review trustees report on selection process for International conventions; Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums & attract first-time attendees.

Linda C.

**March 14 - ASC** (District 22) - James Workman Middle School,  
69300 30th Ave., Cathedral City, 92234



Directions from the West:  
From the intersection of the 60 and the 10 Fwy:  
Drive East on the 10 Fwy and drive 32.6 mi  
Take the Date Palm Drive exit, Exit 126.  
Take the ramp toward Rancho Mirage/Cathedral City.  
Merge onto Date Palm Dr., and drive 1.2 mi  
Turn left onto 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. and drive 0.3 mi  
69300 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. is on the left.

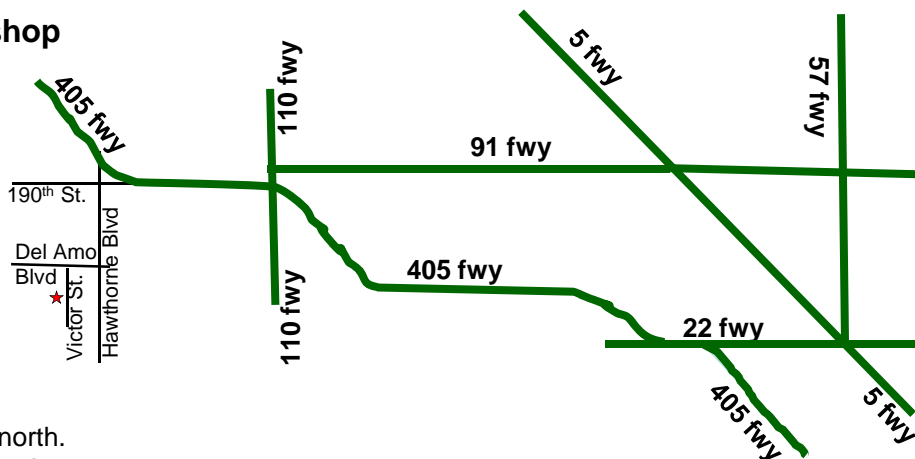
**Tradition 3 (long form)**

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

**Pre-Conference Workshop**

April 11 - Sunday  
West High School,  
20401 Victor Street,  
Torrance, CA 90503



Directions from the East:  
Take the 91 West to the 110.  
Merge onto the 405 freeway north.  
Take the 405 north to Western Ave.  
Turn south onto S. Western Ave. and drive 0.3 mi.  
Turn right onto W 190<sup>th</sup> St. and drive 2.6 mi.  
Turn left onto Hawthorne Blvd/CA 107 S and drive 0.7 mi.  
Turn right onto Del Amo Blvd and drive 0.7 mi.  
Turn left onto Victor St. and drive 0.2 mi.  
20401 Victor St. is on the right.

**Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs**

- 9:30 am....GSR School, Delegate's Rpt
- 10:15 am..... Committee Meetings
- 11:30 am... Lunch
- 12 noon ... ASC or Assembly mtg

## Upcoming Events

Date - Event:

**March 5, 6 & 7 - PRAASA 2010** - Radisson Hotel at LAX, 6225 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(more info on [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org))

**March 14 - ASC** (District 22) - James Workman Middle School, 69300 30th Ave., Cathedral City, 92234

**April 11 - Sunday - Pre-Conference Workshop** (District 1) - West High School, 20401 Victor Street,  
Torrance , California 90503

(TBA) **April - Archives Open House** -

**May 16 - Sunday - Assembly** (District 15) -

**June 13- Sunday - ASC** (District 10) – **Kraemer Memorial Park, Backs Building – Main Room, 201 N. Bradford Ave., Placentia, CA 92870**

**July 1-4- International Convention** – San Antonio, TX

**July 11- Sunday - Foro** (District 21 and 3) -

**August 8- Sunday - ASC** (District 7) -

**Aug 27-29 - Pacific Regional Forum**, Torrance Marriot , 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance CA 90503

**Sept 12 - Sunday - Assembly** (District 20)

**October 10- Sunday - ASC** (District 4) -

**Oct 24- Sunday - Heritage Day** (District 6)

**Nov 14 - Sunday - Servathon** (District 12)

**Dec 12- Sunday - ASC** (District 19)

### Panel 60 Area Officers

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

### Schedule

#### for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:30 am....GSR School, Delegate's Rpt  
10:15 am..... Committee Meetings  
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 60 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, et al.

Archives Chair... Joseph H  
CEC Chair... tbd

Communications Committee Chair...Jesus O  
Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Joe B  
Layout Editor...Nancy R  
Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Henry B  
Web Coordinator...Becky B  
Equipment Subcommittee Chair...Al W  
Translation Subcommittee Chair...Santiago S

Convention Liaison... Bob D  
Convention Liaison, Span... tbd  
Corrections Chair... Alex O  
CPC Chair... Bill G  
CPC Co-Chair, Span... Martin G  
DCM School... tbd  
DCM School Spanish ... tbd

Finance Committee Chair... Jim B  
Grapevine Chair... Doug M  
La Viña Chair... Mauricio T  
GSR School... David B  
GSR School, Spanish... Renaldo A  
Literature Chair... Ernesto M  
Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ... tbd  
Public Information Chair... Keith S  
Public Info., Sp... .. Marcelo C  
Registration Chair... Devon F  
Special Needs Chair... Scott R  
Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish...tbd  
Treatment Facilities Chair... John O  
  
Archivist... Pete B  
Coffee person... Paco G  
Regional Forum (2010) Coordinator...Bruce H  
Sound Dude...Leandro L & Raul C