



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

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

October 2010

Concept X – Authority and Responsibility

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

“Ahah!”, you say, “I knew you were going to get around to trying to take authority away from the groups somewhere in here”. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Tenth Concept for World Service actually reinforces the groups’ authority – ultimate authority. As stated in the 2nd Tradition – there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express himself in our Group Conscience. So, the groups, through their group conscience, ultimately determine the direction and health of A.A.

But the groups, in their group conscience, realized that they could not be the provider of certain services, so they have wisely delegated these services to the service boards and committees defined in Tradition 9. So, now it’s the groups’ job to hover over the service boards and committees and micro-manage everything they do, right? Absolutely not!

The groups have given delegated authority to these boards and committees, but they retain oversight in the form of their ultimate authority. In essence, what the groups have said to the service boards and committees is: “We have given you the responsibility for providing services which we cannot provide, and along with this responsibility, we have given you the corresponding authority to carry out that responsibility – however, don’t exceed that carefully defined authority without consulting with us first”. Altogether a wonderful concept when the groups adhere to their part of the bargain and the service boards and committees do not over-step their authority. When that happens we are “blessed” with what we in A.A. call “much loving discussion”, (or is it a *seething cauldron of debate*, I can’t remember which).

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Delegate’s Corner

SOME STATS AND QUESTIONS

According to the latest statistics in the 2010 Conference Report, MSCA 09 has 1,861 groups listed with the General Service Office. One thousand eight hundred and sixty one.

Of those groups, 763 contributed to GSO in 2009, leaving 1,098 that did not contribute anything at all to GSO....not one dollar.

That’s 41% of our listed groups that are contributing...and 59% that are not.

Our estimated membership in MSCA 09 is 59,068 recovering alcoholics....of course, it’s difficult to estimate because we don’t know how people count their group membership (those who attend? Those who sign up as members? Those on the telephone list?).

If the estimates of membership are even close to correct then our per member contribution to GSO PER YEAR is \$2.91.

In addition, \$4,349 came from individual members (perhaps for birthday contributions?), \$27 in memorial contributions and \$4,384 from non-groups (intergroups, districts, conventions, etc.).

So, including all the contributions from our Area the grand total is \$3.06 per member per year to GSO.

If, however, all of that is attributed to the 41% of the members/groups who are giving something, then those who are giving are contributing an average of \$7.47 per year while 59% are giving nothing at all.

I would like to know why the majority of our groups and members don’t contribute to GSO...and why they apparently don’t feel it’s important to participate in General Service in our area, either.

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Concept X – Authority & Responsibility
...continued from p.1, col. 1

It has been my experience that where this Concept usually breaks down is in the groups, themselves. So many groups just don't care – have you ever been to an Intergroup Meeting where we should have 1000 Intergroup Reps, or an Area Assembly where we should have 1700 GSRs. We don't come even close to approaching those numbers, maybe, on a good day ten percent of those numbers.

And when ultimate authority, (the groups' authority) is not asserted, delegated authority, (the service boards and committees) will always assume ultimate authority – a real danger to the very life of Alcoholics. When the groups are not in charge, A.A. is in trouble. Does your group exercise its ultimate authority through an Intergroup Rep and a GSR?

A member of A.A. in Orange County.

What is the difference between Assemblies and ASCs?

Assemblies: GSRs vote

First ASC after each Assembly: *The ASC members will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them.*

Second ASC after each Assembly: *ASC members will vote on which proposals to put on the agenda for the next Assembly (for GSRs to vote on).*

Grapevine addresses Anonymity

In a world where privacy is at a premium, where does anonymity fit in, especially for members of AA? This month's October issue of the Grapevine includes stories of how AAs have grappled with this issue.

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 ... continued from p.1, col. 2

Less than half of our groups contribute monetarily to the area and less than 5% send representation by General Service Representatives to our Area Assemblies.

So, are the groups who are not represented and don't contribute, happy with everything as it is and don't feel the need to become involved? Are they displeased and trying to show their displeasure with the Power of the Purse and withholding participation? Are they unaware of what General Service is about and why it might be of benefit to their groups to have more involvements one way or another?

I'm musing out loud and it's much like preaching to the choir, but perhaps we could start a dialogue about getting the answers to some of those questions... it isn't whether it's right or wrong for groups to be involved, but unless we know why they are not, it will continue to be difficult for us to decide how to proceed with our local work and participate in the General Service Conference with the welfare of AA as a whole well understood....

Any ideas? Let's talk at the next Delegate's Sharing Session before the Area Service Committee Meeting on October 10th...

*Linda
Panel 60*

La Vina Workshop

There will be a special speaker sharing about the magazine and its history, followed by a delicious snack and round tables where you can participate, write your own story, or discuss topics on recovery, unity and service, etc.

The La Viña publication is our meeting in print and it is our experiences that we can fulfill our goal of bringing the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and help each other live sober and be a vital and faithful image of the AA community.

Don't be afraid to write:. Don't worry if you are not an experienced writer, many of the articles we publish are from people who are writing for the first time.

Come join us and participate the only requirement is that you are a recovering alcoholic. (We will have volunteers ready and eager to help)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

The Servathon

Hello everyone. My name is Cesar, and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor and privilege of serving Area 09 as the Panel 60 Alternate Delegate for the General Service Conference. My sobriety date is 01/06/96 and my home group is the Freedom/Libertad Group in Santa Ana, CA. Before speak about the area Servathon, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone working in the newsletter sub-committee, from the editor to those who make possible for it's publication... thank you for all your work.

Our area guidelines state that "The purpose of the Servathon is to focus on one or more of the twelve AA traditions and all service work". This specific Area 9 event gives the Servathon participants an opportunity to review and learn more about services that they are not yet familiar with in AA.

When I was elected GSR in 1998 and attended my first district meeting, ASC and Area Assembly, I'm being honest when I say that I understood nothing!. It was not until then that I began to understand the diffence between the Area Service Committee (ASC) and the Area Assemblies. When I attended my first Servathon we had a Trustee at Large share his experience, strength and hope.

The Alternate Delegate back then was chairing the event, and he was very nice to all especially the

GSRs. These days and after some time since I had to rotate out of my GSR position, I've remained involved in General Service. Today, I have the privilege of organizing this event along with District 12. My hope is that at this event, the GSRs and anyone serving at this level will have a better understanding and get more familiar with General Service. I'd like to encourage all of you to come out and learn how to do a better job at keeping our groups informed about what happens in AA as a whole. This way our groups can be up to date, and have more tools for carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

We are still working on the program, starting out with registrations, coffee and donuts. At noon we'll have deliciously prepared food. We have plans to have a Special Speaker share their experience in General Service. Possible topics for discussion at the roundtables may include agenda items for the 60th Conference, and we may take time to take a mini inventory of our area, discuss the traditions and concepts at the roundtables, plus hear a very good message from our Panel 60 Delegate Linda C.

As many of you already know the date of the event is Sunday, Nov.14, 2010. District 12 is hosting, please don't miss it you are all cordially invited.

Service; a Legacy of Love
Cesar F. MSCA 09 Panel 60 Alternate Delegate

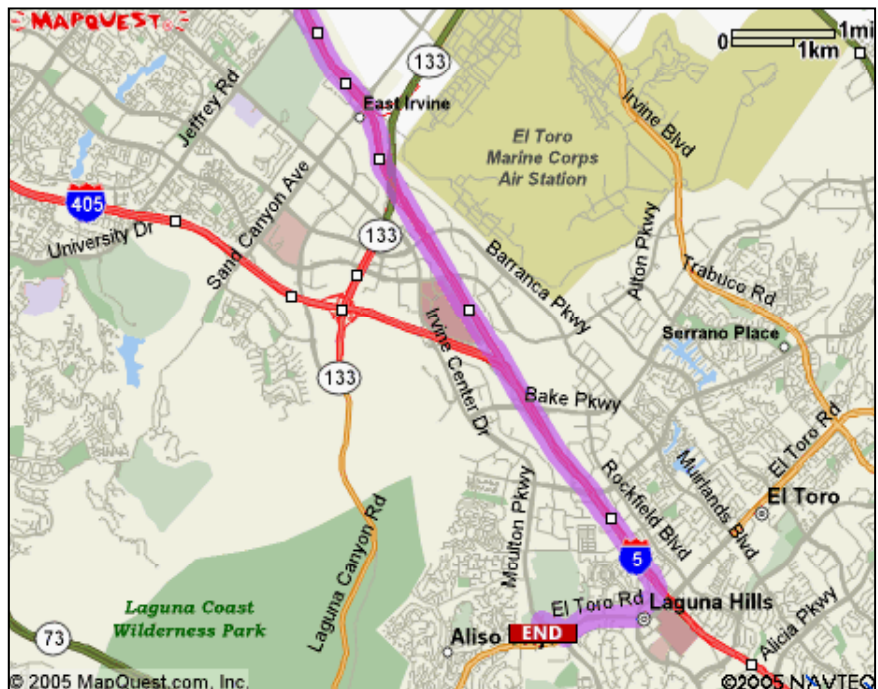
Servathon , November 14
24112 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

(Leisure World Clubhouse Two, Gate 12)

Directions:

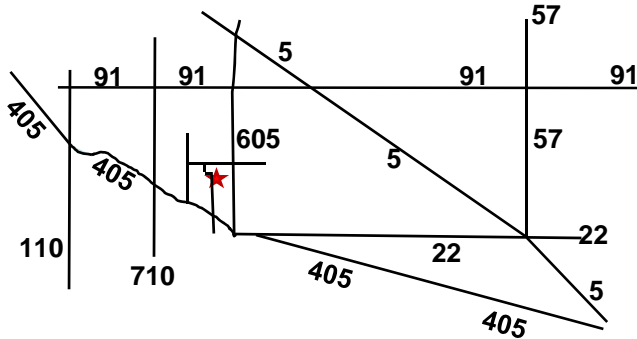
From the 5 fwy South, exit El Toro Rd, turn left at stop sign (Ave Carlota), turn right at El Toro Rd (1st street), straight to Moulton Parkway, turn right, straight to Gate 12 entrance, turn right. Entrance at guard shack.

From the 5 fwy North, exit El Toro Rd, turn left on El Toro, straight to Moulton Parkway, turn right, straight to Gate 12 entrance, turn right. Entrance at guard shack.



**October 10- Sunday – ASC, American Legion Hall,
5938 Parkcrest Street, Long Beach**

(District 4) – (ASC members will present proposals,
but no vote will be taken on them.),



Directions from the East:

From the intersection of the 57 and the 91 Freeways, take 91 west. Drive 13.3 mi.
Take exit 17B to merge onto 605 S. drive 3.8 mi.
Take exit 3 for Carson St. toward Lincoln Ave., Drive 0.2 mi.
Turn right at Carson St. Drive 1.8 mi.
Turn left at Woodruff Ave. Drive 0.1 mi.
Turn left at E. Parkcrest St.. Drive 449 feet. Destination will be on the right.

From the Northwest:

Take the 405 S. toward Long Beach.
Take exit 27 for Lakewood Blvd. S toward Long Beach Airport N. Drive 0.3 mi.
Keep right at the fork, follow signs for CA-19 S/Lakewood Blvd and merge onto CA-19 S/N Lakewood Blvd. Drive 0.3 mi.
Make a U-turn at E. Willow St.
Turn right at Woodruff Ave. Drive 0.1 mi.
Turn left at E. Parkcrest St. Drive 449 feet. Hall will be on the right.

Directions from the South-East

Take the 405 north, past the 605.
Take exit 26A to merge onto N. Woodruff Ave. Drive 2.2 mi.
Turn right at E. Parkcrest St. Drive 449 feet. Destination will be on the right.

What's the Purpose of an ASC?

1. Identifying, defining, and discussing Area, District and Group problems and issues.
2. Obtaining the consensus of each District and its Groups.
3. Acting as an advisory Committee to the Assembly, Executive Committee and Delegate.
4. Establishing The agenda for the next assembly

Who are the ASC Members?

The MSCA ASC is made up of Area Officers, DCMC's, past Delegates, Alternate DCMC's, DCM's, other District Officer's, Standing and Coordinate Committee Chairs and Cochairs.

Workshop

District 4 General Service invites you to a workshop

“I am responsible for AA’s future... Let it begin in my home group”

Sat. Dec. 4, 9 am – 1 pm

Neighborhood Methodist Church, 507 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, 90806

Featuring a presentation from our Area 09 Archives – “How AA got started in Southern California.” Also, 2 past delegates to the General Service Conference will share their experience.

Bring your questions and concerns about how we maintain our responsibility to the future suffering alcoholic.

Coffee, donuts, and fresh fruit will be served

Pete’s topic: “We can’t know where we’re going unless we know where we came from” – about group Histories.

Joe’s topic: “Can my Home Group overcome future challenges and continue to serve the alcoholic in the years to come?”

Movie Night

Movies will be shown at the MCSA Archives, on the schedule shown below. 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 Hollywood movie about alcoholism and recovery. Refreshments will be available.

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

Come Fill the Cup – (1951)	Oct. 16
Dark – Call for Private Screening	Nov. 20
Dark – Call for Private Screening	Dec. 18

Tradition 10

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

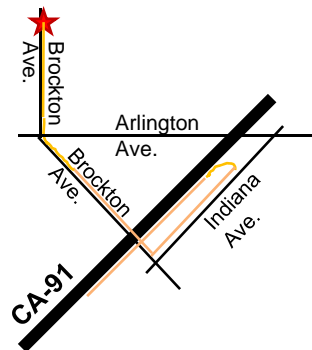
Heritage Day

One of the Archives Standing Committee’s annual events is Heritage Day. Heritage Day involves at least four longtimers being interviewed about their experience, strength and hope. We classify a longtimer for this event as someone with more than 30 years of sobriety and who has been involved in service. Because of the interviews we are able to get some insight as to what the fellowship was like 30 to 40 years ago, as well as getting to know some of those who came before us.

This year Heritage Day will be held October 24, 2010 at the Temecula Valley Alano Club (27470 Commerce Drive, #C, Temecula CA 92590) starting at 1 pm and lasting until 4 pm. On the panel will be six people with sobriety ranging from 30 to 40 years. A special guest this year will be Rod B., newly elected Pacific Regional Trustee.

If you have questions, call the Archives at 951.7850845.

Directions to the MSCA Archives Repository in Riverside from the South: Take CA-91 north toward Riverside. Take the exit toward Arlington Avenue. Turn right onto Indiana Ave. Turn Right onto Brockton Ave. End at 5922 Brockton Ave., Riverside.



ACYPAA Summit, Oct. 1-3, 2010, Doubletree Hilton Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario, CA 91764. More info at www.tricypaa.org

ACYPAA (All California Young People in AA) Summit is an event designed to provide information to all California YP service committees about the bidding process required to host an annual convention like ACYPAA.

TRICYPAA (Tri-County Young People in AA) has invited YP committees from all over California to attend this event. We would like to extend that invitation and welcome any **GSRs, Area, District and General committee members, Officers, Delegates, AA Grapevine, and other interested alcoholics** to attend the Summit. Many of our supporting alcoholics are young at heart and continue to offer experience, strength, and hope.

Upcoming Events

Date - Event:

October 1 - 3, 2010 ACYPAA summit hosted by TRICYPAA
Doubletree Hilton Hotel 222 N. Vineyard Avenue
Ontario, CA 91764 . www.tricypaa.org

October 10- Sunday - ASC (District 4) – (*ASC members will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them.*),
American Legion Hall, 5938 Parkcrest Street, Long Beach

Oct 24- Sunday - Heritage Day (District 6) –Temecula Alano Club, 27470 Commerce Center Dr., Suite C, Temecula CA. 92590-2522, (Note: our new Pacific Regional Trustee, Rod B, is planning to attend!)

Nov 14 - Sunday - Servathon (District 12) , 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Dec. 4 – Saturday – Workshop (District 4), “I am responsible for AA’s future... Let it begin in my home group”, 9 am – 1 pm,
Neighborhood Methodist Church, 507 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, 90806

Dec 12- Sunday - ASC (District 19), *ASC members will vote on which proposals to put on the agenda for the next Assembly (for GSRs to vote on).*

Panel 60 Area Officers

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

Schedule

for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:30 am....Delegate’s Report
10:15 am..... GSR School, and Committee Meetings
11:30 am... Lunch
12 noon ... ASC or Assembly meeting

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	Finance Committee Chair... Jim B
CEC Chair... Doug W	Grapevine Chair... Doug M
Communications Committee Chair...Jesus O	La Viña Chair... Mauricio T
Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Joe B	GSR School... David B
Layout Editor...Nancy R	GSR School, Spanish... Renaldo A
Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Nick M	Literature Chair... Ernesto M
Web Coordinator...Becky B	Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ... tbd
Equipment Subcommittee Chair...Al W	Public Information Chair... Keith S
Translation Subcommittee Chair...	Public Info., Sp... .. Marcelo C
Convention Liaison... Bob D	Registration Chair... Devon F
Convention Liaison, Span... tbd	Special Needs Chair...Scott R
Corrections Chair... Alex O	Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish...tbd
CPC Chair... Bill G	Treatment Facilities Chair... John O
CPC Co-Chair, Span... Martin G	Archivist... Pete B
DCM School... Terry S	Coffee person... Paco G
DCM School Spanish ... tbd	Regional Forum (2010) Coordinator...Bruce H
	Sound Dude...Leandro L & Raul C

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

