

Mid-Southern California Area 09 Newsletter

Mid-Southern California Area 09 includes approximately 2,000 A.A. Groups in the counties of Los Angeles (south of Rosecrans), San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange



42 = Part of Nevada
3 = Part of Arizona

DELEGATE'S CORNER

There are a lot of things going on in and around Area 09 and AA in general. I have been blessed by the support of our members as well as the GSO in bring all of this info to you. So buckle up, and come along for the ride. It is going to be a great rest of 2012 for all of us.

- *Into Action* - Grapevine's latest print book is available now
- Daily **Grapevine Quote** now reaches 11,250 subscribers –pass it on!
- Sign up online or receive via email on AAGrapevine.org
- 50% off CDs and 75% off Tape Sale continues -see AAGrapevine.org
- 2013 GV Wall Calendars are here
- Submit your photos for the 2014 Wall Calendar Deadline: December 1, 2012

August 31- September 3, 2012

The La Viña Editor and AAGV, Inc.'s Executive Editor Publisher will join an estimated 4,000 participants at the US/Canada's AA Hispanic National Convention in Los Angeles, California. A La Viña workshop, presentation and display will be available to the attendees.

Grapevine will begin to report upcoming area activities in GV News as well as on AAGrapevine.org. All GV area chairs are encouraged to submit event information, photos or great ideas to get the word out about Grapevine and La Viña. Please forward to gvr@agrapevine.org. For examples see the Out and About section of this newsletter or the Display Gallery under Tools and Resources on AAGrapevine.org's Resources/GVR page.

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UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Area Assembly September 9th

(GSRs & ASC members vote on proposals)

Leisure World Club House
1280 Golden Rain Road,
Seal Beach

Hosted by District 6

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

October 14

(Proposals are presented; no votes taken)

Clubhouse Gate 2
24112 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Woods

Hosted by District 12

Area Servathon

November 11

(Focuses on various aspects of service and the Traditions; roundtable discussions and reports)

Banning Park
1371 N. Eubank Ave. Wilmington

Hosted by District 21



7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B
 Riverside
 (951) 785-0845
 (Next to the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)

Show Time: Doors open at 7:00
 The movie starts at 7:30.
 Stay after the show and tour the Archives

+ Cartoon

Cost: Free!

Bring your lawn chairs or chaise longue and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater.

Refreshments available.

Life of the Party (1982)	Saturday, Sep 22
Life Begins at 8:30 (1942)	Saturday, Oct 20
Dark – call for private screening	Saturday, Nov 17
Dark – call for private screening	Saturday, Dec 15
My Name is Bill W. (1989)	Saturday, Jan 19
When Love is Not Enough (2010)	Saturday, Feb 16

Pacific Regional forum - September 14-16 - Fairbanks, Alaska
Free Registration: www.aa.org

Notes from the Treasurer—Annie D.

Hello all. I've made my way through the first quarter of Panel 62. I've enjoyed working alongside some of the most enthusiastic and dedicated people I know in AA. I've got the best service sponsorship and couldn't have done the job without help from my predecessors and those on the Finance Committee.

I am here to be of service to the AA's within the Assembly of Mid-Southern California. Anything I can do to make things more efficient and cost effective I'm happy to try.

1. I am in a position to see when group information is outdated. I'm adding notes to receipts encouraging groups to update their location and contact information and to become listed with GSO if they haven't already done so.

2. In the interest of saving on postage, I've devised a simple way to send email receipts when email addresses are provided. The receipts with postage and printed envelopes cost sixty-five cents each, potential savings of \$2000 per year!

4. Receipts by mail have a folded tab that can be torn off and mailed back with future contributions. There is a place on that tab to add an email address. Please do so!

4. It is always up to the group how often contributions are dispersed. Monthly is great, but if the contribution is relatively small, it may be more prudent to send them quarterly considering the cost of postage each way.

5. My email is on the receipt (& email receipts). Please let me know if I can answer any questions.

I love playing with money and numbers, but I get so busy at the Area events I have less time to visit with you. That part I miss, 'cause General Service people are my favorite AA's! Thanks all for your support in a demanding but rewarding service position.



Did You Know?

In 1969, the GSC recommended that A.A. World Services Inc., and the A.A. Grapevine Inc., with the primary purpose of the Fellowship foremost in mind, study their efforts in each other's behalf and extend to each other the fullest cooperation in making the Fellowship aware of the tools of AA.

AUGUST, 2012 NEW YORK, NY, **AAGRAPEVINE**, the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, has published the new book; "Into Action," containing stories from AA Grapevine – Soft cover Book version: GV28 \$10.

This collection of Grapevine stories shows the many ways members work the program of AA. Written by men and women, young and old, with different lengths of sobriety, the articles in this book highlight how members practice the Twelve Steps, use our literature and slogans, and get into service, sponsorship and fellowship. The stories demonstrate the various ways members get active in AA to stay sober, carry the message and live rich and rewarding sober lives.

Last, the Conference agenda committee are looking "Suggestions for the Theme and Presentations Topics for the 64th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference, April 27 - May 3, 2014. There will be a list on our website containing the topics of all of the previous conferences, and a sheet to fill in and forward to the General Service Office. All ideas come from the membership, and everyone is invited to suggest their opinions.

I hope to receive the Final Conference Reports and have them available for all at our next Assembly in Seal Beach. Thank you all for letting me serve.

Jeryl T.



"What General Service Means to Me"
Members of Area 09 share experience...

My name is Federico and I'm an alcoholic. My experience in service has shown me that there is more to AA than my home group.

In General Service, especially, we help people in the community, who have not had the opportunity to find AA. When we participate in Health Fairs and other public events, I often see hope in the eyes of the men and women that we talk to, because almost everyone has a close relative or friend who needs AA. We also provide information to professionals who are looking for resources when they have clients who are alcoholic.

I have a daughter with special needs; she is autistic. Thanks to my involvement with General Service at the District and Area level, I believe my family lives better life.

I'm currently the Public Information Chair for District 21. When I became familiar with what the Standing Committees do, I've seen first hand that they address many, many needs people have outside of AA.

I've learned that AA is for any alcoholic: the mentally ill, the disabled and all races, creeds and colors.

I want to thank God, as I understand Him, and all of you, for everything you have given me through AA.

Federico

Officers/Directors Reports

Delegate: Finished all conference reports and thanked all board members for accompanying him; GV eBook, “Young and Sober”, survey pamphlet, and the new Armed Services pamphlet are now available; will present at Regional Forum on topic of Social Media; announced that AAWS eBooks will not be available in the foreseeable future.

Alt. Delegate: Attended many conference report backs; board meetings; is planning Servathon; has been invited to speak at several events and groups; is available to visit any district.

Registrar: Gave CDs to each district with GSO information and needs updates about all groups; many groups have incomplete information.

Treasurer: Although the Area is in the black year to date, based on historical information we need about \$1,000 more per month for the rest of the year to meet our proposed budget. Has added a line on receipts offering email receipts which will save 50 cents per receipt; handed out budget request forms for 2013 and reminded everyone to return by next month in order to have information available to Finance Committee before the budget meeting in September.

Chairman: Announced 135 in attendance today; thanked Coffee Guy, Sound Dude, Lunch Maker, hosting District, CPC presenter in Coachella, and the other members of the Board for their great work. He has been asked to speak at several places and is available by invitation to districts or groups.

Secretary: Attended several conference report-backs and visitations; is working on the Area Roster; reminded committee chairs and DCMs and DCMCs to turn in written reports.

Old Business

Three proposals were presented for consideration to be taken forward to the Assembly. All proposals will be on the agenda for consideration by the members of the Area at the September Assembly.

Committee Projects

Note: Members of all committees are available for District and/or Group presentations or visitations by invitation.

Archives: Group History Book project, Archives Workbook design; work parties; movie nights; presentations; Heritage Day; one area rep will attend 2012 National AA Archives Workshop in Florida.

Communications: Website; Newsletter

CPC: Workshop & booth at Conference for Addiction Professionals 2013 in Palm Springs; Canadian Convention

Conventions: Presence at many conventions and more planned.

Corrections: Attended SoCal H&I mtg; working w/delegate re anonymity situation at Chuckawalla Prison.

DCM School: Will meet together with Registration.

Finance: Grapevine & La Viña: GV display needs repair; reviewed plans for LV anniversaries; visitations; article writing

GSR School: Reviewed GS and area structure; reviewed and discussed proposals.

P.I.: Visited H&I in Garden Grove; contact with dental clinic and radio/TV stations.

Special Needs: Braille pamphlets for OCCO; SOLCALYPAA convention.

Treatment: New kits ordered; will visit districts “We’re here to help!”

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I): Chili Cook-Off Sep 15, no admission fee; also announced So Calif. Convention in San Diego Sep 28-30



Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

North Orange County Spanish
Hospitals and Institutions (H&I)
Committee

is

**CELEBRATING 13th
ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE**

*Food will be provided; just show up, eat, fellowship
and listen to H&I speakers.*

**330 N. State College Blvd.,
Suite 207
Anaheim, CA 92805**

20 Years Ago: September 1992 (from the Area newsletter)

**Delegate: Jim C.—Alternate Delegate: Manuel Y.—Chair: Sarah K.
Secretary: (acting) Melody W.—Treasurer: Kitty A.—Registrar: Lona W.**

The Seven Things I Learned at the 62nd General Service Conference in New York

by Area 09 Panel 62 DelAnon, Rozanne T.

As many of you know, I am the wife of our MSCA 09, Panel 62 Delegate, Jeryl T. I was privileged to join him at the 62nd General Service Conference in NY this past April. I had such an amazing experience; I wanted to share a bit of it with all of you. After returning home, I reflected on my time in New York and realized I had learned some valuable lessons:

1. **There is no “them” and “us”:** A lot of people refer to the General Service Office (GSO) as “them”. Actually, I’m pretty sure I have done the same thing. What I found out is that GSO IS us. We are all people who care about what happens in and to AA. GSO loves our society as much as we do and they work very hard to take care of the groups, the meetings and individual members. (Don’t forget, they go to meetings, have home groups and live their programs too).

2. **AA is a business:** As much as I don’t like to think about it, we are a nonprofit organization which has guidelines, there are certain things that have to be done on a regular basis to keep Alcoholics Anonymous running. And GSO does all of those things.

3. **GSO Cares as much about AA as we do:** For some reason, I kept thinking that GSO didn’t have the time to care “like I do” about AA. Pretty arrogant, huh? Well, in my mind, I thought that “they” were too busy doing the work of AA to be worried about things like: What happens when addicts go to closed AA meetings and no one says anything when they share? Why are the districts not attracting more GSRs, how do I serve my district, my home group, my area better? What do I do to be more of service to my home group? I thought these were individual concerns, and GSO was too far away from the local meetings/groups. What I found out is that GSO IS the small group, the district, the individual AA member, just like me. And each one of them cares how they can be of service, just like me. The difference is that they get to serve the whole country and Canada.



4. **GSO staff and NYC Intergroup work their butts off:** Many of you have heard Jeryl’s shareback about how, when in their committees, the secretary would make a phone call or send an email and 5 minutes later a report, copies

or important documents would “magically appear”. That commitment was not exclusive to the committees. The volunteer group from New York Central Office that took care of us “DelAnons” (that’s what they call the guests of the delegates) was on the job 24/7! They took us all over NYC, attended every single function and made sure we had a great time. That is HARD WORK to keep a bunch of alcoholic guests happy. They were fabulous!

5. AA is in good hands: After having numerous conversations with the other delegates, trustees, GSO staff, Past and Present, hearing how much they did and do now, hearing their stories, experiences and beliefs...I am absolutely positive that AA is in good hands. The love and joy they express in serving AA as a whole were the most prevalent emotions common to all of them. I am SO sure AA is in good hands!

6. Roberts Rules of Order: Have you ever read a Roberts Rules of Order book? You would know because you may have noticed that the words seem to blur together to create strange sentences that don’t necessarily make sense in regard to the previous sentences. Well, listening to the delegates talk about floor actions, the minority opinion, quorums, 3rd legacy votes, etc. I felt like I had gotten a lesson in legislative government. Now, don’t get me wrong, I love to learn, but these guys and ladies were talking another language. I learned more than I ever wanted, but the learning was magnificent! Thank you all!!

7. Jeryl did an excellent job representing the voice of Area 09: You may be thinking that I am partial to Jeryl, well you’re right, but in this circumstance, it is well deserved. Jeryl worked so hard to make sure he brought the consciousness of Area 09 to NY. He read, studied, re-read and absorbed all the information he received, including ALL the notes from the pre-conference workshop. I know this to be true because every time I saw him, from the day of the Pre-Conference Workshop until the morning the Conference started, he was reading and studying. I am so proud of what he did for us in NY, and I am so grateful I got to watch God work in his life.

*I’ve been thinking how to end this article, it seems the words aren’t coming very easily, as I am still filled with the spiritual experiences I had while out there. This I do know, AA is alive and well in NY, the United States and Canada. The people working to keep it alive for us are working really hard to **keep** it alive for us and those who are coming behind us. And I have had the opportunity to watch the process. I am eternally blessed and forever grateful for this experience.*

One last thought, everyday of the conference they had a morning discussion meeting. At the end of it, one of the leaders said this: Let us please have a moment of silence for those who are heavy on our hearts and those who are yet to come.

I like to keep that prayer in mind because it reminds me that there are those out there for whom we are responsible, for those to whom we need to carry the message of AA. And isn’t that what our primary purpose is anyway?



GRAPEVINE Quote of the Day *August 19, 2012*

"It has only been in the past few months that I have become interested in service work in AA. Before that, I was an AA barnacle, glued to my seat, criticizing the speakers and griping about the coffee. Now I'm on the other side of the squawks and bleeps, and I find, to my delight, I like it."

*St. Petersburg, Fla., September 1954
"Doing the AA Side-Step"
AA Grapevine*

Mark your calendar

September 9 – Sunday

Area Assembly

(GSR & ASC members vote on proposals)
Leisure World Club House—1280 Golden Rain Road, Seal Beach
Hosted by District 6

October 14—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

(Proposals are presented: no votes taken)
Clubhouse Gate 2—24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods
Hosted by District 12

November 11—Sunday

Servathon

(Focus on various aspects of service and the Traditions;
roundtable discussions and reports)
Banning Park—1371 N. Eubank Ave., Wilmington
Hosted by District 21

December 9—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 7

January 13—Sunday

Area Assembly

Hosted by District 2

February 10—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 17

March 10—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 4

April 14—Sunday

Pre-Conference Workshop

Hosted by District 25

Usual Area Meeting Schedule

at most assemblies and ASCs

9:00 a.m.	Delegate's Sharing
9:00 a.m.	GSR Orientation
9:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Standing Committee Meetings
10:00 a.m.	DCM Orientation
11:15 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 Noon	Area Meeting

Who's Who?

Officers/Directors

Delegate:	Jeryl T.
Alt. Delegate:	Sharon K.
Chairperson:	Cesar F.
Secretary:	Jesus O.
Treasurer:	Annie D.
Registrar:	Raul C.

Committee

Chairs, Co-Chairs

and other Area Service Positions

Archives (Eng)	Matt W.
Archives (Sp)	(open)
CEC	Patricia P.
Communications	Martin J.
Elec. Media	Kris C.
Elec. Equip	John W.
Translation	Santiago S.
Newsletter	Linda C.
Convention (Eng)	Lois L.
Convention (Sp)	Mauricio T.
Corrections	Julio I.
CPC (Eng)	Catherine
CPC (Sp)	Jose F.
DCM School (Eng)	Nikki N.
DCM School (Sp)	
Finance	Tina B.
Grapevine	Catherine E.
GSR School (Eng)	Marita H.
GSR School (Sp)	Marcelo C.
La Viña	Paco G.
Literature (Eng)	Scott B.
Literature (Sp)	Martin G.
P.I. (Eng)	Bob D.
P.I. (Sp)	Magdaleno
Registration	Kristin F.
Spec. Needs (Eng)	Jennifer C.
Spec. Needs (Sp)	
Archivist	Pete B.
Coffee	Tony M.
Copier	Jim C.
Sound	Jim B.
Web Coordinator	Rainer F.

Area 09 contains all of three counties and portions of two more. Orange County, with its population at 3 million, San Bernardino County, with a population at a little over 2 million, and one of the fastest growing counties in America, Riverside County with 2.2 million people in its borders. Not only is the Area vast in size, but the amount of people on the road at any given time can make traveling long distances unbearable throughout the region.



Participation in the Area has been declining over the past few years. When participation declines, donations decline as well. When donations decline, effectiveness of the area declines as well. Thus making it a difficult task to service the Area as it should be serviced by the participants, such as Committees, officers, and delegates. The people who suffer are the ones who are not getting the vital information to and from their groups. Those who are actually remote, even though they are in a major metropolis. There are no committees created for that type of remoteness.

Each year, our budget reflects the struggle we all endure trying to spread the good news that General Service has rendered us who are privileged to serve. However, it is a gloomy sight to see the \$.30 per mile reimbursement we offer our committee chairs, co-chairs and officers to travel to distant places to carry out their tasks. I know this first hand as I have traveled well over 1500 miles in the past months to do Delegate reports, only to realize that the \$.30/mile I will receive will not cover the wear and tear on my car, the time traveled nor the inconvenience of the traffic. When I have to be in San Bernardino at 7:00 p.m. and I have to leave my house at 4:30 p.m. to make sure I will not be late because of traffic. Or I have to be in San Pedro at 7:00, Apple Valley at 3:00, Lomita, Indio, Palm Desert, Long Beach, I think of what it must be like to be a committee person trying to do their job, and their budget is already spent after two events. Or what it must be like to be a GSR whose mileage will not be reimbursed. Whose travel time to and from an event coupled with the 6-hour ASC becomes a 10 hour day. I then wonder if we are really being effective going the way we are going.

Think Tank/Area Split...It sounds like something out to tear us apart. *"People are plotting and planning our demise by splitting us up and leaving us high and dry to fend for ourselves."* *"Relationships I have made will be interrupted."* *"I like driving to faraway places, it's like taking a vacation each month."* These are some of the thoughts people have shared with me regarding the possible request to create a New Delegate Area, and I relate.

However, fear is an evil and corroding thread. The fabric of our existence is now, and has been shot through with it. We shudder and quake at the possibility of change, without looking past the immediate experience. They call that *"contempt prior to investigation."* I experienced the exact same thing when I was named Delegate. I wasn't elected by popular vote; I was selected out of the hat. I didn't think people liked me, and I knew I wasn't going to be able to do the job well, and certainly not as well as those who went before me, now known as Past Delegates.

I had judged the job they had done, both good and bad. I knew all the things I would have done differently. I knew everything about their job, except THEIR job. I was grateful to have been selected, but immediately I got re-acquainted with my old friends: Terror, Frustration, Bewilderment and Despair. How will I ever fill the shoes of those who have gone before me. They know all about service. The ins and outs, and I haven't a clue. Who will I lean on for support, and who will guide me? These were questions that perplexed me from the start.

I had briefly forgotten who was in charge of all this! God picked me. God was running the show, then and now. I still get my mind, opinions, desires and will in the way, and can't see the forest for the trees. My vision and thought process is cloudy. Then, I get scared. Scared of the new, while perfectly comfortable in the old. Flight, fright, denial, manipulate...The well-known stages of a sober spree! Every now and then, someone reminds me to trust the process. Then, all is well, knowing that my Higher Power can and will, other's could and would, but I know He can, and will and does!

There are some opportunities that are coming up for our Area in the months to come. Some will be challenges, while others will be just obviously, the right thing to do. Let's all approach with open minds and grateful hearts, knowing that the process will prevail, and the Group is always smarter than the individual. We are in good Hands, and have a clear path to our future. Be kind and respectful as we listen, voice and register opinions and hopes for the future of our Area.

I hope to see all of you as we trudge this road to happy destiny in Area 09.

