

# 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



## DELEGATE'S CORNER

**Finally**, I'm in the air after a 3-hour delay because of a window shade. Geez, I can't believe that a window shade could ground an airplane and 200 passengers would have to be at its mercy, but that is exactly what happened. So after eleven days in New York, plotting and planning the future of A.A., a plastic window shade has played the role of God, and determined our departure and arrival time.

**A truly amazing** time was experienced not only by me, but I am sure by the other million people who populated the corner of Broadway and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, better known as Time's Square, New York. And at times it did seem like there was a million people standing on the corner, crossing the street, selling comedy tickets or posing for a picture all at the same time. Quite a spiritual experience, however; how all these people, cars, personalities, languages and desires could all exist on the same corner at the same time, going in every direction, yet as one. A perfect example of what was going on inside the Crown Plaza Hotel on the fourth floor (occasionally on the 5<sup>th</sup> as well), where the 63<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was being held.

We discussed, edited, voted, debated and took inventory. We laughed, cried, hoped and despaired all while lovingly

*Continued on page 2*

## UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

(more on page 7)

May 11—Saturday—10-3  
**Literature Workshop**  
7111 Arlington, Riverside  
Hosted by MSCA Literature Committee

--  
May 19--Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
**Delegate's Conference Report**  
Dales Senior Center  
3936 Chestnut St., Riverside  
Hosted by District 8

### May 19 - Special Meeting Schedule

8:30 am: Committee Meetings

9:45 am: Assembly called to order

11:30 am: Lunch

**12:15 Delegate's  
Conference Report**

--  
June 9—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC)**  
Elks Lodge  
6501 Elk Trail Dr., 29 Palms  
Hosted by District 30



**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.*

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 28 Days (2000)                  | Sat., May 18 |
| Come Back Little Sheba (1952)   | Sat., Jun 15 |
| Days of Wine and Roses (1962)   | Sat., Jul 20 |
| When a Man Loves a Woman (1994) | Sat., Aug 17 |

***“Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.”***

*Excerpt from “A.A.’s Legacy of Service” from The A.A. Service Manual by Bill W.*

*Delegate’s Corner – Continued from page 1*

at least most of the time) voicing opinions, rights, concepts, and misconceptions. Out of all of this stuff came mostly the right decisions (at least the way I voted)...just kidding. Out of it all came the combined wisdom of AA as voiced by an informed group conscience, represented by the 93 Delegates from all over the United States and Canada, the 21 Trustees in attendance and the 19 staff who participated as voting members of the Conference.

**I won’t tell you all** that happened because then you won’t come to the Delegate Share Back Assembly in Riverside in a couple weeks. But I will give you a little heads up on some items of interest:

1. There will be no index in the Big Book
2. There will be no merging of committees in the near future.
3. AAWS will begin to utilize industry professionals to help market and distribute product.
4. A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the original Big Book will be printed in English in 2014.
5. There will be an addition to our Charter, which will allow Right of Appeal to members who are below the Conference line in the picture on S16.
6. We have a new Chairman of the Board, Terry Bedient

There are so many other extremely interesting and important Advisory Actions, Recommendations and Additional Considerations that will be illuminated at the Assembly, May 19<sup>th</sup> in Riverside. In fact, the Delegates from Eastern Washington and San Diego/Imperial will also be in attendance to lend some of their experience at the Conference to us. It should prove to be an impressive and informative day of Service.

I can tell you that I am so very proud to have been allowed to serve and represent all of you at the last two General Service Conferences. It is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of being a voice for so many minds. But most of all, I can tell you that the man you sent to the Conference is definitely not the same one coming back. God is Good!!

### Home Group History?

MSCA Archives Committee is working on a project to publish a series of booklets featuring histories of Groups in Area 09. Is there someone in your group who remembers "what it was like, what happened...and when...and who?"

A printed questionnaire is available from the Archives Committee Chair...your group should be included, don't you think? [ArchivesChair@msca09aa.org](mailto:ArchivesChair@msca09aa.org)

### Books and eBooks

Available from

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## Books & eBooks

Happy, Joyous and Free  
Into Action  
Young and Sober  
Step by Step  
Emotional Sobriety I & II  
Spiritual Awakenings I & II  
The Language of the Heart  
The Best of Bill  
Lo Mejor de Bill



### HOW MANY PAPER COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER DOES YOUR DISTRICT NEED?

For the past few years, we have printed 20 paper copies of each issue for each district (English for 1-19 and 30 and Spanish for 20-25) plus an extra allotment of printed copies to be available at the area meetings. The total number of printed copies has been 540 English copies and 240 Spanish copies: a total of 6,240 printed sides for a 4-page newsletter.

The Newsletter Guidelines, however, state that the DCMC will be asked each August how many copies each month they will need for the coming year, in order to plan for the newsletter budget request. As the printing cost for the newsletter is very high, even with the *considerable savings* by using the area copy machine, the Communications Committee is asking for the districts to consider making their own copies from the electronic version available early each publishing month on the MSCA09 website. We will be contacting each DCMC to encourage discussion and feedback about how we can best deliver the area newsletter for the most distribution at a reasonable cost to the area.

## LITERATURE WORKSHOP

*You will view several different examples of Literature Displays, become familiar with various types of pamphlets, variety of books available for sale through AA World Services and aaGrapevine, e-books, CDs, and methods of giving brief, but informative, literature announcements.*

**SATURDAY, MAY 11 – 10-3**

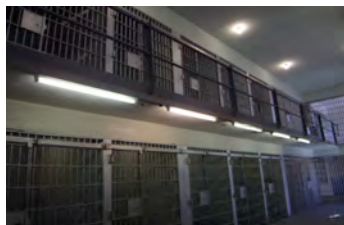
MSCA 09 ARCHIVES REPOSITORY  
7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B, Riverside

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

*Doors open at 9—come early for donuts and coffee and visit your area archives!*

Flyers available: email

[literaturechair@msca09aa.org](mailto:literaturechair@msca09aa.org)



## PRAASA 2013 Panel #5 Presentation by Scott B.

### **How do we get people excited about going to the “Big House”?**

*The presentation topic is the General Service Conference Corrections Committee*

*Item #C:*

*“Discuss how we engage A.A. members in corrections service.”*

The following is the presentation as it was given at the 2013 PRAASA in Boise, ID Panel #5 on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 by Scott B. Literature Chair for the Mid-Southern California Area 09.

Good morning, my name is Scott B. and I am an alcoholic. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the Literature Chair for the Mid-Southern California Area 09. Now what in the heck am I doing up here talking about corrections? Because I was asked to.

November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943, is a little known landmark day in A.A. history. Bill W. himself was the guest speaker at an A.A. meeting held in California’s then notorious San Quentin Penitentiary. The famous warden, Clinton Duffy, had allowed the first A.A. meeting to be held at that prison in 1942, and Bill was anxious to observe the progress of this unprecedented step.

*“There were formidable problems to solve,”* Bill wrote later, *“but warden Duffy took them, and his faith was justified.”*

Our topic this morning is ‘how do we get people excited about going to the Big House? Some people have asked me, what is the Big House? This is definitely not a house I want to live in no matter how big. The Big House is prisons, jails, correctional facilities, etc.

The presentation topic is the General Service Conference Corrections Committee item #C: Discuss how we engage A.A. members in corrections service.

In the Trustees Committee on Corrections report dated October 27, 2012, under the Sub-Committee on Corrections Engagement Planning; Don M., Chair of that sub-committee reported that the sub-committee had met to review their scope and agreed to review all materials utilized by the Corrections Desk in order to take a strategic look at how the A.A. message is currently carried to incarcerated alcoholics.

In my eighth year of being around Alcoholics Anonymous, I was on my 5<sup>th</sup> relapse when I was arrested. The Deputy Sheriff’s took me to the Norwalk City Jail. I was told I would be released by 6:00pm the very next day. When that hour came around several deputies started lining all of us inmates up. They marched us straight out the back door and my thoughts were I can’t wait to get home and continue where I had left off. I then noticed a very large black and white bus that said Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. I, of course, immediately started insisting that I was supposed to be released. I am not like them, I argued. Thank God for the paperwork mysteriously disappearing. Had I have been released after my four year relapse, I am not sure if I would have been able to muster the courage to come back. While I was incarcerated, the thought occurred to me that the AA’s in corrections would surely come by to visit me. Although I was only in the LA County Jail for 2 days, I would have loved to have a visit from someone in AA but none came.

The night I was released, I only had a pair of pants, (No underwear mind you), a tee shirt, flip flops, no money, no cigarettes and my brother was visiting my sister in Oregon. 2am on a rainy night in Downtown LA is not a pretty sight for a scared man like me. The four years I was away from A.A., I had lost contact with everyone I knew. A homeless man gave me a cigarette and I called the only person I knew who would be up at that time and she was my dealer. She came and picked me up and prior to her arriving the thoughts came to my head that she will give me the alcohol and drugs I needed to make it through the night and the next day. It came to me as a shock when she said *“Scott you have a problem and need to get help.”* Wow! That hit me like a ton of bricks. The very next day, I went to my old home group, The 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition Men’s Stag in Hermosa Beach, CA. I had to arrive one hour before everyone else because I was so afraid since I have let everyone down in my men’s stag so many times before, that if I saw anyone there before I arrived, I would have just driven by. I have been sober ever since that day.

*Continued on page 5*

### **“Big House” Continued from page 4**

A teenager that I had sponsored beginning when he was fifteen years old, spent much of his teens in different foster care programs and houses in which he kept running away from them. His father had committed suicide and his mother was a drug addict. The state took him away and he was in the system until after he was 18 years old. Much of his life was spent being incarcerated in the juvenile system. DCFS had given me permission to visit him on Sunday's. We would work the steps. Read the book and talk about him and where he would go once he was released. I saw young men and teens there with no one to visit them. No AA members they could talk to about their alcoholism. Some had asked why no one would come visit them. I had no answer for them as I was only allowed to see my sponsee.

I have shared a couple of experiences with you and what I have read to you about the famous warden Clinton Duffy allowing the first A.A. meeting to be held at the San Quentin Penitentiary in 1942 and Bill W. being guest speaker there on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1943, in hopes by looking back in our AA history and our shared experiences we can engage AA members across our Pacific Region to get involved in corrections as shown that there are many suffering alcoholics that are incarcerated who may never find the peace and joy that we have found from being free of alcohol unless we engage our own AA members to get involved now.

In my search of this topic over the last week, I have learned much about myself also. I have learned that God seems to put people who have the experience on such topics in front of me. I am the Mid-Southern California Area 09 Panel 62 Literature Chair, What do I know about corrections service? I was literally freaking out. I called the PRAASA Program Chair Candice and wanted to make sure that she had the right topic for me. And no I am not controlling. I then sent a text to our area delegate. I called my sponsor PJ (Who is a past MSCA09 Delegate). I called a few more people. I went to our area's Registration Workshop last Saturday and talked to our Alternate Delegate and our delegate and wouldn't you know who showed up at the workshop, Nick M. who is a past delegate and was heavily involved in Corrections Service. Now if that is not God working in my life, then I do not know what would be.

There are many tools we can utilize in Corrections Service. One of these tools is Corrections Correspondence. I would like to quote something I read in this years background Corrections Correspondence – a special kind of A.A. service. *“I know how important our twelfth step work is and I enjoy writing men who are locked up. It is one of the tools that I use to keep me sober. I myself found A.A. in prison almost 20 years ago. And it hasn't been necessary for me to return to prison since I was released in 1979.”* From an Outside Correspondent.

I really want to thank the host area for the 2013 PRAASA for allowing me to be of service and to allow me the honor of presenting this topic to all of you.

I hope and pray that those alcoholics who are incarcerated will get the help they need from Alcoholics Anonymous and it really starts with us.

I thank you with all my heart and thank you for my life,

Scott B.

## Free Sponsorship Workshop

**Everyone is Welcome!!**  
Roundtable Discussions:  
*What should a sponsee look for in a sponsor?*  
*When am I ready to be a sponsor?*  
*How do I change sponsors?*  
*Boundaries of sponsorship: Do's & Don'ts*  
*What is a service sponsor?*  
*How does a sponsor handle the  
overly-dependent sponsee?*

**Saturday: May 18 – 1 to 4:30**  
1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church Hall – 109 E. Wilshire Blvd.  
Fullerton – Free parking across the street  
*Coffee, water, and snacks provided*  
**SPONSORED BY DISTRICTS 10 AND 15**  
**LONG-TIMERS AND PAST DELEGATES  
WILL PARTICIPATE TO BRING THEIR  
EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE!**

### Officers/Directors Reports

**Delegate:** Announced that one of our members had prepared graphic “impressions” of PRAASA and they were available to those who wanted them; announced rotation resolution passed at PRAASA which will bring the event to MSCA 09 in 2019 (no more bidding and voting on where the next PRAASA’s will be held); announced that AAWS will publish a commemorative edition of the 1<sup>st</sup> Big Book; asked everyone to take Conference Summaries to discuss at home groups and attend pre-conference workshop; celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> AA birthday; made many visitations and has many more on his schedule, including the High Desert Convention and Temecula Intergroup.

**Alt. Delegate:** Reminded everyone that the Groups are in charge, encouraging participation. Announced various upcoming events including the Pre-Conference Workshop, the May Assembly Delegate’s report back and the 4-Area DCM Sharing Session. She is working with committees to make sure they all have guidelines. Announced that GS Conference Summaries were done before PRAASA.

**Registrar:** Attended PRAASA, including roundtables; updating GSRs information;

**Treasurer:** 2013 budget was approved in January; if anyone wants a copy, ask and she will provide one. Asked everyone to remind groups that they may receive receipts by email which will save the Area \$\$ and offer opportunity to communicate directly.

**Chairman:** Thanked the host district and to all who make the meetings work: coffee, sound, interpreters, set up, lunch, etc. Went to 11<sup>th</sup> PRAASA (4 vans drove). Thanked presenters from Area 09, Joe and Scott.

**Secretary:** Has been helping with translation work; attended PRAASA; he says “general service is helping him to ‘grow up’”; By the end of the panel he will know what he is supposed to be doing.



### New Business

Motion (Martin J.): To take the following proposal to the May Assembly for discussion and vote: “That the finance committee publish, on the website, each quarterly profit and loss statement, as soon as available and, in addition, publish the preliminary budget in October and final budget in January.” (Motion passed)

### Committee Activities

**Archives:** Invitation to Archives Open House; presentations to Districts 24 and 17 (reminded everyone about Archives presentations, available to districts and groups. District 15 will participate in sorting party.

**Area Communications Committee:** Newsletter distribution: let ACC chair or newsletter editor know how many “hard” copies you need for your district, which could cut down on the cost of printing. Equipment committee needs to know what Area equipment you have: contact ACC chair. Reminded everyone that there is an audio availability on the website. Webmaster’s term is ending at the end of 2013.

**Corrections:** Working to be more effective; cooperation with H&I.

**Finance:** As most members of this committee are rotating off at the end of 2013, participation by prospective members prior to the end of the year is recommended and encouraged: call for committee members.

**LaVina:** Call for articles for LaVina anniversary.

**Literature:** Literature workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Information:** Jails and school visitations. Looking for more fairs to participate in. Need feedback on PSAs.

**Special Needs:** Working on Braille pamphlets; outreach to people on meds, with autism, etc. goal: “incorporate all levels of special needs to all levels of A.A.”

**Treatment:** Visiting districts to encourage participation.

COMMITTEE WORK CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS! GET INVOLVED!

JOIN AN AREA COMMITTEE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 19--Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
**Delegate's Conference Report**  
 Dales Senior Center  
 3936 Chestnut St., Riverside  
*Hosted by District 8*

May 11—Saturday 10-3  
**Literature Workshop**  
 7111 Arlington, Ste. B., Riverside  
*Hosted by MSCA Literature Committee*

May 18—Saturday 1-4:30  
**Sponsorship Workshop**  
 109 E. Wilshire Blvd., Fullerton  
*Hosted by Districts 10 & 15*

June 9—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
 Elks Lodge  
 6501 Elk Trail Dr., Twenty Nine Palms  
*Hosted by District 30*

July 14—Sunday  
**Foro**  
 (Spanish-speaking with English Interpretation)  
*Hosted by District 21 and 3*

August 11—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
*Hosted by District 19*

September 8—Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
*Hosted by District 11*

**IMPORTANT**  
**!!UNUSUAL MEETING SCHEDULE!!**  
*MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>*

8:00-8:30 am Registration  
 8:30 am Committee Meetings  
 9:45 am AREA ASSEMBLY MEETING  
 11:30 am Lunch  
 12:15 DELEGATE'S CONFERENCE REPORT

## 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) Jaime F. to be confirmed  
 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.

## 4-Area DCM/DCMC Sharing Session

Areas 05, 08, 09, and 93 District Committee Members share service information and experience.

All past, present and future DCMs, DCMCs, and Alternates are invited...everyone is welcome.

Round Tables, Speakers, lunch (donations welcome)

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2013

420 N. El Camino Real, Oceanside

Registration & Donuts: 9:30 a.m.

Programs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

### Divisive or Integrating?

#### Checklist - Tradition One

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about Love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?



#### A.A. BIRTHDAY PLAN

Some members of A.A. celebrate their A.A. anniversary/birthday by sending \$1 per year of sobriety to various entities. These may include the home group, local inter-group, district, area, general service office, and/or hospital and institutions committee. In addition, some members subscribe to aaGrapevine for themselves or another member in celebration. *It has been calculated that if only half of all members celebrated this way, all of these entities could be self-supporting through our own contributions...including AAWS and the aa-Grapevine.*