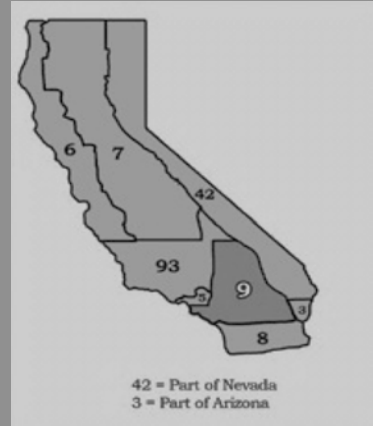


Mid-Southern California Area 09 Newsletter

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

Well, it has started. Everyone is asking me how it feels to not be the delegate. What? I guess someone forgot to tell me that my time was up. Or maybe they forgot to tell the countless conferences, seminars, District elections, committee events, and Group speaking engagements that I still have to attend this year as the Panel 62 Area 09 Delegate. Still with much to do, I get to do.

I was very proud of my Area as we elected an amazing group of people to be our Board of Directors for the next two years, STARTING JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN. Cesar, Joe, Sharon, Barbara, Rozanne and Jesus will be a great team to lead our Area through the next panel, but that doesn't start until Panel 62 is done!! We still have much to do, and are doing it.

The best thing of it all is that I have decided that I will submit my availability to be the next newsletter editor for Area 09, along with a group of young enthusiasts who want to be on the committee. So I will continue, beyond my tenure as delegate, to be an active part of the Area and its direction. That also means that while making news, the immediate past delegate is also part of the Finance Committee, so my experience in bookkeeping will have an opportunity to pay off in the Area as well. Oh my, what fun.

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

(more on page 8)

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November 10—Sunday
Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting
San Jacinto Community Center
625 S. Pico Ave., San Jacinto
Hosted by District 14

November 16—Saturday
Servathon
Leisure World Club House
24112 Moulton Pkwy
Laguna Woods
Hosted by District 12

November 23—Saturday (1-4pm)
Heritage Day
Return to Life Group (Grupo Volver A Vivir)
1620 W. 5th Street, Santa Ana
Hosted by District 20

December 8—Sunday
Area Service Committee (ASC)
ABC Recovery Center
44-359 Palm St., Indio
Hosted by District 9



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.*

(Nov and Dec: no movie night)

Bill W. Documentary

Sat, Jan 18

Delegate's Corner—continued from page 1

This month, alone, I have participated in the Southern California Convention, the Inland Empire Convention, the Eastern Ontario Fall Conference in Ottawa, Canada, and am leaving in the morning for the 28th annual Intergroup/Central Office/AAWS/GPV Conference in Palm Springs. I also attended a couple District Elections and saw some amazing servants be elected to fulfill commitments those they serve with. I spoke at an anniversary in Lucerne, met with a Group to assist in initiating an inventory, while all the time clinging close to those I have the gift of sponsoring. *(There is still nothing like reading the book, taking steps, and then watching them do the same with those they help. It is the greatest gift I have been given here in sobriety, that of helping another find their way through the Program.)*

It is an honor and a privilege to participate in these kinds of events. I get to tell how proud I am of my Area and how we are moving into the future in joy with confidence and service as our beacon. I get to tell stories of service, discovery, experience strength and hope to our future service comrades, all because of those who have come before me, and those who go with me creating legacy for those who will come after us. I have followed in some giant footsteps with those Delegates who have served this Area before me, and it is still quite humbling to be in their presence.

Yes, it is far from over; this experience of being Delegate and a responsible leader, as elaborated in Concept 9 of the Service Manual. Vital leadership must be accompanied with effective action, and that is something I know I can do, and hopefully have done for the past 22 months on the job. Yes, indeed, they tell us we have to carry the message. But remember, the way you carry the message is **ON YOUR FEET!** You are the message, or at least, that's what I've been told: You may be the only Big Book or Service Manual anyone ever gets to see or read. That, pretty much, is why I feel so strongly about the hope of effectiveness in our action. I tend to believe some of this stuff I read.

I've got another two months to go in this post, and I hope to keep up with God's desire for me to be of maximum service to Him and those around me. He wants and needs more than just my lips moving, and deserves so much more than that. All that I am, I owe! I love this Program. I love Service. I love AA. And, I probably love you too! Let's keep to the firing line for the privilege to serve.

Jeryl T
Panel 62 Area 09 Delegate

WELCOME, MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

PANEL 64 OFFICERS!

MSCA elections were held on Sunday, October 13, and the following officers/directors were selected for the Panel 64 two-year term of office (2014-2015). Each of them has supplied short *service vitae*, showing their devotion to service, to A.A., and their readiness to serve in these new positions. Please welcome:

DELEGATE: **Cesar F.** -- Home group: Coffee maker; leader; secretary; Alternate General Service Representative (Alt. GSR); GSR. District: Active member Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee (CPC); Area: Coffee maker; Panel 54 Secretary; Panel 58 Registrar; Panel 60 Alt. Delegate; Panel 62 Chairperson.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE: **Joe C.** – Home Group: Coffee maker; Chips, Literature; Secretary; Treasurer; Intergroup Representative; GSR. District: Secretary; GSR School Chair; Alt. DCMC; DCMC; Chair ad hoc committee for Guidelines review. Area: Served on Finance Committee

CHAIR PERSON: **Sharon K.** – Home group: Greeter; treasurer; GSR Hospitals and Institutions (H&I): Literature Chair Intergroup: Action and Responsibility Chair District: Secretary Area: Secretary (appointed for partial term; elected for full term), Panel 62 Alternate Delegate.

SECRETARY: **Barbara D.** – Home group: Coffee maker; donut girl; greeter; literature; treasurer; H&I: Panels District: Secretary; District Committee Member Chair (DCMC); GSR School Chair.

TREASURER: **Rozanne T.**, - Home Group: Secretary; treasurer, panel leader; event calendar/phone list chair; anniversary chair; literature; Intergroup Representative; GSR Intergroup: PI Chair; Group Relations chair; Intergroup/Central Office liaison. District: District Committee Member (DCM); CPC Chair; Alt. DCMC. Area: Stand-in CPC Chair (14 mos); Think Tank member; 4-Area DCM Sharing Session Liaison 2013.

REGISTRAR: **Jesus O.** – Home Group: Coffee maker; secretary, literature chair, treasurer; Intergroup Representative; GSR; Intergroup: Secretary, Literature Chair; Treasurer; 12-Step volunteer. District: Secretary, Foro Co-Chair, DCMC. H&I: Panel member. Area: Interpreter; Newsletter Spanish Co-Chair; Translations Sub-Committee Chair; Communications Committee Chair; Panel 62 Secretary.

Pacific Region Trustee Candidate

In addition to the Area Officers, Mid-Southern California Area 09 elected a candidate for the four-year term of Pacific Region Trustee, which term begins following the 2014 Conference when our current Pacific Region Trustee, Rod B., will rotate out of the position. Each Area in the Pacific Region may put forward one candidate. From that slate, using the Third Legacy Procedure, a selected group of Trustees and Panel 63 and 64 Delegates will select our next Regional Trustee at the 2014 Conference. We are grateful to announce the selection for this position and highlights of his service history:

PACIFIC REGION TRUSTEE CANDIDATE: **Nick M.** – Home Group: Coffee maker; Secretary; Greeter; Alt. GSR; GSR. District: DCMC; GSR Orientation H&I: Panel Coordinator Area: Secretary; Alt. Delegate (1 year); Delegate (3 years); Newsletter Editor

Ronnie O. – Update

(In August, 2012, we published the story of Ronnie O. and his introduction to General Service. A good story, revisited and updated.)

Ronnie O. sat on the back row of his first AA meeting on a Saturday night in Wrightwood, California on 9 February 2008. It had been 24 hours since his last drink. Introducing himself as a newcomer near the beginning of the meeting, I approached him afterwards and asked if he sincerely wanted to stay sober. Not waiting for an answer, I offered to pick him up the next morning and transport him to an Area 09 Service Committee meeting in Indio. I could only promise that he would not drink between 6 a.m. when I picked him up and 6 p.m. when I dropped him off.

Then a new GSR, I was somewhat surprised when he said yes and even more surprised when he was standing in his front yard the next morning shortly after sunrise. I cautioned that this would not be a “typical” AA meeting but that he was guaranteed not to drink sitting there in my backseat and later mingling with other southern California alcoholics. Along the way I picked up my service sponsor, John W., in Hesperia and the three of us proceeded to make the three-hour drive to Indio. As usual though somewhat elongated, we had the meeting-before-the-meeting during the drive.

Once there, Ronnie was introduced to AA at the Area-level. There were a hundred-and-fifty alcoholics in one large room, amplifying chaotic conversations occurring in both English and Spanish.

When one can't hear, one speaks louder, which feeds on itself and is overwhelming at first. Of all the AA-related functions I've attended, it is AA at the Area-level that seems to best demonstrate our 9th Tradition. I continue to be amazed at how we always get things done even in the face of all the seeming lack of organization! How several hundred alcoholics somehow end up at the right committee tables even when there are no signs to announce who is meeting where was disconcerting at first and is now something I've come to appreciate.

Ronnie was introduced to several District 19 folks, who in typical AA fashion made him feel at home. Then several other Area 09 alcoholics welcomed him when they learned that he was a newcomer thrust into the Area-level bedlam. It may not have been as cozy as a group of a dozen faithful AA's sitting on couches in someone's home but there was every indication that he felt right at home surrounded by a hundred trusted servants. It's sometimes difficult to see the similarities between an AA home group and an Area-level group; however, whenever two alcoholics get together it doesn't seem to matter where.

The 14 Feb 2010 ASC hosted by Dist. 11 marked two years since we attended that first meeting in Indio. At that time, having held his mouth right (i.e., not in a circle near a glass hole), Ronnie celebrated two years on 8 Feb. 2010. Although he had never revisited an Area-level meeting, he is a

dedicated member of A.A. and makes his home group in Phelan, CA. I've told this story to a half-dozen alcoholics as evidence that AA is working and even an introduction at the Area level can be an effective beginning to a new sober life. You never know how first impressions can lead to lasting sobriety!

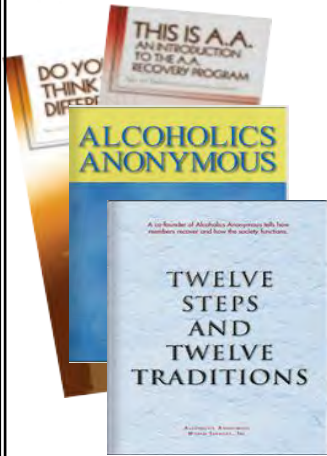
When I submitted this story in October 2013 to Linda C. for possible inclusion in an upcoming newsletter, she suggested that I contact Ronnie to see how he's doing, as I had not talked to him in the past three years.

After his wife yelled out the backdoor for him several times, his familiar, smiling voice came through the receiver loud-and-clear. I'm happy to report that Ronnie has now been sober for five years, eight months, and 13 days! He's never felt the need to go back out and test the waters. He agreed with me that this new life we're living sure beats the old one we gave away.

On a personal note, just last weekend I was in Buena Park for the Panel 64 elections, which never cease to be inspirational. Later that evening, several of us went to hear our current Trustee, Rod, and our newly elected Delegate, Cesar, speak in Newport Beach. I had seen Rod in 2010 in San Antonio from a mile away at the International Convention; in Boise, Idaho in 2013 at PRAASA from a quarter mile away; and now in Newport Beach from 10 feet away. My life seems to be gaining focus! Thank you Area 09 for the love you continue to share with the newcomers-turned-toddlers-turned-teenagers-turned-adults-turned-oldtimers in Alcoholics Anonymous!

Ed L., Wrightwood, CA.

Inaugural



AREA 09 SPEAKERS AT AREA 93 EVENT!!

Literature Workshop

Saturday, Dec 7th 2013 – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Simi Valley Senior Center – 3900 Avenida Simi – Simi Valley

Speakers

Pete B.: *(Past Area 09 Delegate and Current Archivist)*

“History of the Big Book”

Jim C.: *(Past Area 09 Delegate and Past Pacific Regional Trustee)*

“How the 4th ed. Stories were Chosen”

Panelists

Scott B., Lisa P., Marilyn N., Harold Y., Jeff J., Sharon G.

Panel topics include: *Conference approved literature vs. non-conference approved literature * How literature fits into our primary purpose * AA literature in a digital age * Importance of AA literature & literature commitments * and more!*

“Coffee and Carbs” provided!



25th Annual

HERITAGE DAY

Presented by the

MSCA Archives Committee

In District 20

1620 W. 5th Street, Santa Ana

(Return to Life Group – Grupo Volver A Viver)

SATURDAY, NOV 23

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

On Saturday, November 23, from 1-4 pm, the MSCA 09 Archives Committee will be presenting the 25th annual Heritage Day. This year District 20 will host Heritage Day. The event will be held at the Return to Life Group (Grupo Volver A Viver) at 1620 W. 5th Street, Santa Ana.

Heritage Day is an annual event presented by the Area 09 Archives Committee. Each year the Archives Committee asks for a district’s help in hosting the event. This year we are honored to have District 20 as the host district.

The purpose of the event is to help preserve our Area’s history by interviewing Area 09 members with long-term sobriety. The event consists of four long-timers (30 years +) being interviewed on their early experience in AA.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 25th Annual event!!

Reminder:

M\$CA Budget: How it comes to be...

To: MSCA members

From: MSCA Finance Committee

August 11, 2013: Budget Request and Inventory worksheets are distributed to each Area Officers and Committee Chair at the Area Service Committee (**ASC**).

September 8, 2013: Each Area Officer and Committee Chair has returned his/her completed budget request and inventory worksheets by or on this date (**Area Assembly**)

October 27, 2013: Initial budget preparation meeting held at the MSCA Archives in Riverside. Participants are: members of the Finance Committee, the current Delegate, and the newly elected Treasurer and Delegate. Budget requests are reviewed along with spending in 2013 to plan a preliminary 2014 budget. This initial budget will be posted on the Area website.

November 10, 2013: Initial budget is presented to the Area Service Committee (**ASC**); questions on the budget will be answered.

November 11 - 30, 2013: Initial budget is reviewed by the Executive Committee and revisions presented to the Finance Committee. If the budget is revised, the revised planned budget will be posted on the Area website.

December 8, 2013: Preliminary budget is presented a second time (with any revisions requested by the Area Executive Committee) at the **ASC**. Members of the ASC discuss and vote on sending the budget to the January Assembly.

January 12, 2014: The final budget, with year-end revisions*, if any, is presented to the Area Assembly by the Executive Committee. The Assembly votes on acceptance of a final budget, following discussion and suggested revisions in distribution, if any.

*** If there are unused funds in the bank account at the end of 2013 (in other words, if we did not break even) that amount will be added to the 2014 budget as equitably as possible. Remember, we will not know the amount of those funds until that first week in January. Therefore, the amounts you see in the initial budget in November may not be the same amounts as the final budget in January. The members at the Assembly will have opportunity to discuss and make suggested changes to the distribution of the projected budget at the January assembly.**

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“Relapses have made me see that I can not do this by myself and I need someone else to guide me,” writes the author of *“What I Learned”*, one of the stories from our special section this issue devoted to the experiences of the Alcoholics Anonymous members after one or multiple relapses and who have managed to stay sober.

Sharing La Viña

The XVII Anniversary of the AA Spanish-language magazine, La Viña, was celebrated in Area 72 (Western Washington state) in August 2013. In the spirit of those whose efforts fought in the beginning for the life and survival of the AA Grapevine magazine, this committee rolled up its sleeves, worked long hours, traveled many miles within the Pacific Region, and contacted interested AAs in other Regions as well as Spanish-speaking AAs around the world. All of this in the hope of carrying the message to Spanish-speaking alcoholics everywhere who have not found AA’s message yet. The anniversary celebration included meetings for Groups, Districts, Areas, Meetings, Forums and other special meetings.

A committee has already formed to have the XVIII Celebration in Phoenix, Arizona in 2014!

The committee thanks the MSCA 09 Delegate, the Anglo and Hispanic communities, delegates from all the Pacific Region areas, as well as past delegates, past and present trustees, the editor of the Grapevine and patience of the La Viña staff, and above all, to the Higher Power.

The response for La Viña subscriptions was so successful that the committee ended up with more subscriptions than they could distribute locally. They decided to reach out to other areas where local La Viña subscription numbers are low. The contacted areas in the following states through past

delegates and had an enthusiastic response from each one. Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Virginia.

Ten subscriptions have been sent for distribution to members in each of the areas as a result of the celebration and generosity of those participating.

SERVATHON

Saturday, November 16

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Leisure World Club: 24112 Moulton Pkwy., Laguna Woods

Learn more about Area Committees and how they work within the Traditions!!

Bring a newcomer...Bring your sponsor...carpool...check it out!!

For more information contact Sharon K. at DelegateAlt@msca09aa.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 625 S. Pico Ave., San Jacinto
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 Hosted by District 14

November 16—Saturday
Servathon
 24112 Moulton Pkwy
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 Hosted by District 12

November 23—Saturday (1-4 pm)
Heritage Day
 "Return to Life" Group (Grupo Volver A Vivir)
 1620 W. 5th Street, Santa Ana
 Hosted by District 20

December 8—Sunday
Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting
 ABC Recovery Center
 44-359 Palm St., Indio
 Hosted by District 9

January 12—Sunday (subject to approval)
Area Assembly
 Hosted by District 18

February 9—Sunday (subject to approval)
Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting
 Hosted by District 23

March—Sunday (subject to approval)
Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting
 Hosted by District 23

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 (Open)
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.