

### DELEGATE's Corner

Each new delegate is required to produce an "Area Highlights" summary that is shared at PRAASA and at the General Service Conference in New York, this year between 19-25 April 2020. Mine, based on the one Joe C shared as Panel 66 Delegate, follows. This is for your information and comes with the request that if you see any errors in the information presented, please let me know ASAP so I can correct the error.

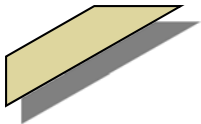
"Mid-Southern California Area 09 – MSA 09 – was approved at the 8th General Service Conference in 1958. One of six areas in California, Area 9 spans four counties - Orange County, most of San Bernardino County, Riverside County, and part of Los Angeles County. We border the Pacific Ocean to the southwest, from Manhattan Beach to San Clemente; extend north of Barstow onto China Lake and Fort Irwin military bases; and east to Blythe on the Colorado River. As such, we are 190 miles tall and 220 miles wide, requiring some members to travel three hours to attend area meetings. The area meets 12 times a year, including 3 Area Service Assemblies, 6 Area Service Committee meetings, a Pre-Conference Workshop, a Servathon, and our FORO, where Spanish-speaking members organize and conduct the meeting.

"Area 09 has 30 Districts, with 26 active and 4 available to form new districts. Most of our districts have subdistricts with both DCMCs and DCMs. There are 6 overlapping Hispanic districts. Our most recent information

[Continued on Page 2]

### AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 09**—Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 20
- March 15**— Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 15
- April 05** — Sunday  
**Pre-Conference**  
District 5
- May 17** —Sunday  
**ASSEMBLY—DEL SHARE**  
District 18
- June 14**—Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 3
- July 12**—Sunday  
**FORO**  
District 22 & 9
- August 09**—Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 2
- September 13**—Sunday  
**ASSEMBLY**  
District 12
- October 11**— Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 14
- November 15**—Saturday  
**SERVATHON**  
District 25
- December 11**—Sunday  
Area Service Committee  
District 4



**DELEGATE's Corner... continued**

shows 2,003 groups in Area 9 with GSO numbers, where approximately 62,600 members attend. Area 9 is comprised of 17 standing committees, including our newest addition in January 2019 - MSCA 09 Young Person's Standing Committee. Coordinate committees include 5 Young People in AA Intergroups, 14 Central Offices (including 6 Hispanic offices), and 8 H&I Committees with 34 local H&I Committees.

"We regularly distribute information to more than 1,000 present and past trusted servants, with about 250 actively participating at any given time. From the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean, half of it unpopulated desert and half of it some of the most populated places in the United States, Area 9 is committed to extending the hand and heart of AA to all who suffer and, in particular, to all who long to be of service."

\_\_\_ In Love and service,  
Ed

Personal Mission Statement: "I'm committed to being totally available and responsible to MSCA 09 members, to help provide a healthy infrastructure to communicate among individuals, Groups, Districts, Area, and the General Service Office, while using as few acronyms as possible!"

## **PRAASA 2020**

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**ARIZONA AREA 03 WELCOMES YOU!**

**\*Mention PRAASA 2020 for Room Rate\***

**\$25 Registration Fee**

**March 6—8, 2016**

### **A.A. HISTORY FEBRUARY**

#### **February 1**

1918: Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. Date was moved up because of the war.

1942: Ruth Hock, A.A.'s first paid secretary, resigns to get married.

#### **February 2**

1942: Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock who had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help.

#### **February 5**

1941: Pittsburgh Telegram ran story on first A.A. group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

#### **February 8**

1940: Bill W. and Dr. Bob and 6 other A.A.'s asked 60 rich friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. for money at Union Club, N.Y. They got \$2,000.

1940: Houston Press ran first of 6 A.A. anonymous articles by Larry J.

#### **February 9**

2002: Dr. Bob's daughter died, Sue Smith Windows.

#### **February 10**

1922: Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. Following recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a U.S. Senator and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until announcing he wouldn't run. He authored legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.

#### **February 11**

1938: "Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions had his last drink - Clarence Snyder.

#### **February 12**

1945: WWII paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.



**“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves to restore us to sanity.”**

"If a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered long ago. But we found that such codes and philosophies did not save us, no matter how hard we tried. We could wish to be moral; we could wish to be philosophically comforted, in fact, we could wish these things with all our might, but the needed power wasn't there. Our human resources, as marshaled by the will, were not sufficient; they failed utterly."

A.A., Pages 44-45

**“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”**



Sooner or later, every AA comes to depend upon a Power greater than himself. He finds that the God of his understanding is not only a source of strength, but also a source of positive direction. Realizing that some fraction of that infinite resource is now available, his life takes on an entirely different complexion. He experiences a new inner security together with such a sense of destiny and purpose as he has never known before. As each day passes, our AA reviews his mistakes and vicissitudes. He learns from daily experience what his remaining character defects are and becomes ever more willing that they be removed. In this fashion he improves his conscious contact with God.

[Continued on Page 4]

A.A. HISTORY FEBRUARY ... continued

**February 13**

1937: Oxford Group "Alcoholic Squadron" met at the home of Hank Parkhurst ("The Unbeliever" in the 1st edition) in N.J.

1940: With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and formed the first Philadelphia A.A. group.

**February 14**

1971: A.A. groups world-wide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

**February 15**

1918: Dr. Bob's adopted daughter was born, Sue Smith Windows.

1946: A.A. Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.

**February 16**

1941: Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first A.A. group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members with five being women.

**February 18**

1943: A.A.'s were granted the right to use cars for 12 step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.

**February 19**

1967: Father "John Doe" (Ralph Pfau), first Catholic Priest in A.A., died.

**February 20**

1941: Toledo Blade published first of 3 articles on A.A. - Seymour Rothman.

**February 21**

1939: 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists and others for comment.

**February 22**

1842: Abraham Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

**February 23**

1959: A.A. granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

1918: Date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. Date was moved up because of WWI.

1942: Ruth Hock, the first paid A.A. secretary, resigns to get married.

Every AA group follows this same cycle of development. We are coming to realize that each group, as well as each individual, is a special entity, not quite like any other. Though AA groups are basically the same, each group does have its own special atmosphere, its own peculiar state of development. We believe that every AA group has a conscience. It is the collective conscience of its own membership.

Daily experience informs and instructs its conscience. The group begins to recognize its own defects of character and, one by one, these are removed or lessened. As this process continues, the group becomes better able to receive right direction from its own affairs. Trial and error produce group experience and out of corrected experience comes custom.

When a customary way of doing things is definitely proved to be best, then that custom forms into AA Tradition. The Greater Power is then Tradition. The Greater Power is then working through a clear group conscience. We humbly hope and believe that our growing AA Tradition will prove to be the will of God for us.

Many people are coming to think that Alcoholics Anonymous is, to some extent, a new form of human society. In our discussion of the First Tradition, it was emphasized that we have, in AA, no coercive human authority. Because each AA, of necessity, has a sensitive and responsive conscience, and because alcohol will discipline him severely if he back slides, we are finding we have little need for manmade rules or regulations.

Despite the fact...we do veer off at times on tangents, we are becoming more able to depend absolutely on the long-term stability of the AA group itself. With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the

[Continued on Page 5]



When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference-- excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter--the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

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Entrusted by the early groups to get the program going and spread the message, Bill and Dr. Bob found nonalcoholic friends to help. A trusteeship was formed with responsibility for finances, Big Book and other literature, public information, service office and the AA Grapevine. As the trustees constantly looked to the co-founders for advice and guidance, and groups continued to hold them accountable, it was evident the leadership should be transferred to the A.A. group as a whole. But if groups were to carry on their primary purpose, they would have to delegate their leadership role to a General Service Conference ...electing a General Service Representative for each group. These G.S.R.s meet regularly in area assemblies and every two years elect a delegate from among their number. Every April, the delegates from the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada meet for six days with the trustees of the General Service Board, staffs of the General Service Office, Grapevine and other service workers. Our A.A. General Service Conference is "the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs."



decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous. Hence, we can safely dispense with those exhortations and punishments seemingly so necessary to other societies. And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere. In this respect, we may be, to a large degree, unique.

\_\_\_\_ Grapevine©, January 1948



"... be happy to share my story.  
... just can't remember it."



## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 2-5, 2020

Detroit, Michigan

Love and Tolerance Is Our Code



### EDITOR'S NOTE

Submit a story or Area 09 information

<http://msca09aa.org/>