



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.area09.org

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

August 2011

Concept 8 – Oversight Versus Over-Management

Concept 8 (Short Form) *The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.*

Continuing in the vein of Concepts 6 and 7, this Concept further defines the role of the General Service Board. Ever aware of the continuing danger to our Fellowship of the unchecked quest for money and authority, Bill W. writes in his essay on Concept 8, **“However, experience dating from our earliest days strongly suggests that future Trustees and service workers, in the supposed interests of accounting simplicity, tax savings, and hoped-for efficiency, will be periodically tempted to go in for concentrations and consolidations of one kind or another. Should this be again attempted, we know that the risk of making an administrative shambles out of the total operation will be great indeed”**. Throughout the essay on Concept 8 Bill reinforces the idea that the best style of management for a business is, well, a type of business management. This Concept grants oversight of the two corporations wholly owned by A.A. – Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, (AAWS) and the Grapevine, Inc. directly to the General Service Board. It also instructs that the Board of Trustees should not and cannot be directly involved in the daily, weekly and monthly management of these two corporations. They are granted the power to elect the Directors of the corporations, (subject to approval by the General Service Conference), after which, the Trustees are instructed to “plan, manage and execute” their own duties and leave the management of the two corporations to the responsible boards.

...continued on p. 2, col. 1

Delegate's Corner

Varieties of Spiritual Experience

*[I have been asked to make a presentation at the **Additional Pacific Regional Forum** in Woodland Hills in August 2011. Following is a transcript of that presentation. I welcome your comments, discussion, and encourage others in our area to share your varieties of spiritual experience with each other and in our newsletter.]*

I think that the earliest spiritual experience I can remember happened on a beautiful sunny day in 1943. I was walking home from school alone (yes, six-year old girls did walk home alone from school in those days). I looked up at the mountainous cumulus clouds looming over half the sky and from behind the clouds came spectacular rays of light, beaming up and away, golden streaks of light, luminous, fabulous. It was stunningly beautiful and I was beside myself with delight.

A little background here: my parents were non-religious skeptics. They were both intellectually curious, voracious readers, each creative in their own ways, loving of their only daughter perhaps to a fault and of each other. Although some of my friends talked of God and who He was, it was not a topic of discussion, pro or con, in our home.

When I arrived home that afternoon in 1943, I ran up the 72 steps to our Hollywood Hills home and I breathlessly informed my startled mother, *“I just saw where God lives!!”* When I had finished describing what I had seen, she gently but firmly informed me that the rays were from the sun and they were created for me by the position of the clouds between the sun and me.

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Concept 8 – Oversight Versus Over-Management ... continued from p. 1, col. 1

As much as any other principle, this Concept has been directly responsible for allowing the entities of A.A. that are involved in business matters to manage those business affairs without constant second-guessing, (but, as you would expect, this still goes on, somewhat) and allows the Groups to tend to the matters of 12th Step work. This is where the material is truly separated from the spiritual. Now the real reason this Concept works is found in the next Concept – Concept 9. I'll give you a hint – Concept 9 deals with Leadership.

A member of A.A. in Orange County

2011 Pacific “Additional” Regional Forum

With our U.S./Canada General Service Board
Of Alcoholics Anonymous
August 19, 20, and 21, 2011

7pm to 10pm Friday

9am to 9:45pm Saturday

9am to noon on Sunday

**Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street,
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
(818) 887-4800**

Purpose of this Forum

This Forum is put on by the A.A. General Service Board and is “open” to A.A. members or to anyone interested in A.A. Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chairman of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris. Forums are designed to enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office Staff and the A.A. Grapevine. Forums offer a meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic. This Forum provides unique opportunities for A.A. members throughout the Pacific Region to share their experience, strength and hope.

Movie Night At the Archives

Bring your lawn chairs or chaise lounges and enjoy a classic movie about alcoholism.

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

Cost: FREE! *Bring your lawn chairs or chaise lounge and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater. Refreshments will be available.*

2011 Schedule

28 Days (2000) Sat.– Aug 20
(All features include cartoons)

**7111 Arlington Ave, Suite B , Riverside CA
951 785-0845**

(Next to the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)



Tradition 8 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that: Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

Varieties of Spiritual Experience ...

continued from p.1, col.2 (Delegate's Corner)

One might think that I would have been disappointed or deflated, but I was not. In fact, I was thrilled to know that such spectacular beauty did not depend on a mysterious source.

Through the years I have had a few other deeply moving experiences that I would definitely describe as spiritual...connecting with something within myself that transcends the rational, touches the mystical or mysterious.

Two or three of those experiences occurred while I was enjoying what many of us in AA refer to as "outside issues". The experiences, nevertheless, were profound and, at the time, enlightening, to say the least. Others occurred in meditation and one by observation of a mysterious (to me) light in the night.

When I was about 15 months sober (in 1981) and, coincidentally, about half way through my ninth step, I took a business trip to New York City. I was there alone and, although I had been to the city many times before I got sober, it seemed to have changed significantly since my last visit.

The morning after I arrived I got up early and took an early morning walk up Lexington Avenue. The spring morning sparkled; tulips were blooming everywhere; I walked down the sidewalk, pacing myself with the crowd of people going to work or wherever they were going, and marveled at the beauty of the morning. I was at about 52nd Street when I felt a peculiar kind of rhythm within myself. A sort of pulse that seemed to resonate with all the other people on the street at the time. Noting with some bemusement that it was a beautiful moment, I took one more step and walked into another world. It was suddenly blindingly clear to me that I was (and am) part of the universe, one with it all, intrinsically belonging to a Oneness.

Poet Arlene Harder describes this type of experience well: *"a long-held belief that you are separate from everyone else is replaced with a deep sense of connection with [everything] everywhere.*

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Varieties of Spiritual Experience

... continued from previous column)

Her next statement, however, was not my next thought. She says: *"Nevertheless, you give this source of truth a name: God, Allah, Great Spirit, Universal Consciousness, or Source of All Life."*

I was very familiar with the writings in the Big Book and had been grappling with my own intellectual and theological interpretations. I wanted, above all else, to stay sober. It was empirically obvious to me that many if not most people in AA who were successfully sober believed implicitly in "The God" and most in the Christian version in one form or another. I had been struggling to find a god "as I understood Him" and while sometimes I seemed to be succeeding, most of the time I felt that I failed miserably. God "as I understand him" is still God. And "god" as defined by the dictionary, and in my understanding of monotheistic religions, meant an all-powerful, all knowing creator of the universe, worshiped as the only god.

Dr. Bob discouragingly stated that if I thought I was an atheist, an agnostic, a skeptic, or had any other form of intellectual pride...he felt sorry for me. Bill challenged me to ask, "Who are *you* to say there is no God?" and added that "deep down in every man, woman, and child, is the fundamental idea of God."

When I had this transcendent New York City experience, I stepped into a world of acknowledged mystery. I prefer to keep it in the realm of mystery. I prefer not to "understand" it. I prefer not to attribute coincidence or beauty or calamity to an all pervading, all knowing being who is looking over me and caring for me. I prefer not to have answers for the mysteries that I experience. That is my spiritual choice.

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Varieties of Spiritual Experience ...

continued from p. 3, col. 2

Of course, it's always good to quote Bill Wilson at least once in a talk at an A.A. event, so here's mine from the Appendix entitled Spiritual Experience: *"The terms 'spiritual experience' and 'spiritual awakening' are used many times in this book which, upon careful reading, shows that the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism has manifested itself among us in many different forms."*

So far, so good...he goes on to say, however, *"With few exceptions our members find that they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource which they presently identify with their own conception of a Power greater than themselves."*

I guess I'm one of the few exceptions, because I don't find it necessary to attribute my experience of being part of the universe to a Power greater than myself. I believe I am part of the mystery.

Recently a member of our area asked the rhetorical question from the microphone, "How could it be possible for someone to be spiritual without believing in God?" There were nods of agreement throughout the room; a sort of tacit accord that ipso facto one follows the other....

I believe that I have had a *"personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism"* and that it was precipitated by not drinking and participating in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I do not, however, believe in a Higher Power by any name.

I have not found one, single, word I can embrace to describe what my particular variety of spiritual experience is, but a description that comes close is the following: I am not a human being having a spiritual experience; I am a spiritual being having a human experience.

Linda C., Panel 60 Delegate MSCA

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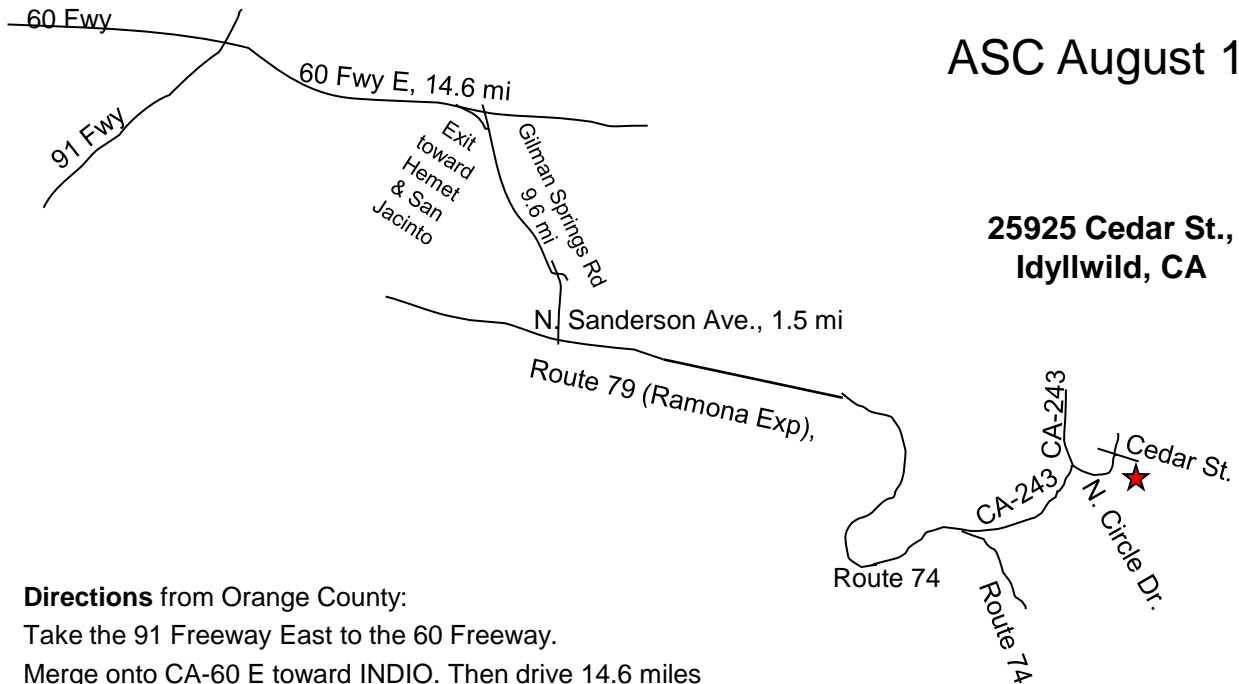
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ASC August 14

25925 Cedar St.,
Idyllwild, CA



Directions from Orange County:

Take the 91 Freeway East to the 60 Freeway.

Merge onto CA-60 E toward INDIO. Then drive 14.6 miles

Take the exit toward HEMET / SAN JACINTO. Then drive 0.3 miles.

Merge onto GILMAN SPRINGS RD. Drive 9.6 miles.

Merge onto N SANDERSON AVE / CA-79 S toward HEMET / SAN DIEGO. Drive 1.5 miles

Turn LEFT onto RAMONA EXPY / CA-79. Drive 5.4 miles

Stay Straight to go onto Mountain Ave. Drive 1.8 mi.

Mountain Ave becomes Ramona EXPY. Drive 1.4 mi.

Turn left onto Floridga Ave/Hwy 74/CA-74. Continue to follow CA-74-E. Drive 14.4 mi.

Turn slight left onto CA-243. Drive 4.4 mi

Turn slight right onto N. Circle Dr. Drive 0.2 mi.

Take the 3rd right onto Cedar St. Drive 0.1 mi.

25925 Cedar St. is on the right

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)*

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.

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

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:00 am....Delegate's Sharing*
10:15 am..... GSR School, and
Committee Meetings
11:30 am... Lunch
12 noon ... ASC or Assembly meeting

* Please note that The Delegate's Sharing now goes from 9:00 to 10:00 and the GSR School and committees start their meetings at 10:15

Panel 60 Area Officers

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

Upcoming Events

Date - Event:

Aug. 14 – Sunday – ASC, *ASC members will vote on which proposals to put on the agenda for the next Assembly (for GSRs to vote on).* Town Hall Recreation, 25925 Cedar St., Idyllwild, CA 92544 (District 14)

Aug 19-21, Fri-Sun, 2011 Pacific “Additional” Regional Forum with our U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367 (no registration fee)

Sep. 11 – Sunday – Assembly, GSRs vote

Oct. 9 – Sunday – Election Assembly, GSRs vote

Nov. 6 – Sunday – Servathon

Nov 20 - Sunday - Area Service Committee (ASC)
District 4

Dec. 11 - Sunday - Area Service Committee (ASC)
District 30

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
CEC Chair... Doug W

Communications Committee Chair...Jesus O
Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Joe B
Layout Editor...Nancy R
Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Jim C
Web Coordinator...Rainer F
Equipment Subcommittee Chair... Kris C
Translation Subcommittee Chair...Santiago S

Convention Liaison... Bob D
Convention Liaison, Span... tbd
Corrections Chair... Alex O
CPC Chair... Bill G
CPC Co-Chair, Span... Martin G
DCM School... Terry S
DCM School Spanish ... tbd

Finance Committee Chair... Jim B
Grapevine Chair... Doug M
La Viña Chair... Mauricio T
GSR School... David B
GSR School, Spanish... Renaldo A
Literature Chair... Ernesto M
Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ... tbd
Public Information Chair... Keith S
Public Info., Sp... .. Marcelo C
Registration Chair... Devon F
Special Needs Chair...Scott R
Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish...tbd
Treatment Facilities Chair... John O

Archivist... Pete B
Coffee person... Paco G
Sound Dudes...Leandro L & Raul C

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