



# 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.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

January 2011

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

Article written by Bill W, December, 1947  
Vol. 4 No. 7 Editorial:

## On the 1st Tradition

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

Our whole A.A. program is securely founded on the principle of humility--that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are--"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why A.A. Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in A.A. the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few A.A. groups impose penalties on anyone for non-conformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or non-compliance with any principle of A.A. is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "Judge not," we observe most literally.

...continued on p. 3, col. 1

## PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Give your districts and committees the widest distribution of your needs, activities and events. Have them published here in your Area 09 Newsletter.

## Delegate's Corner

Two or three men had started scuffling with each other in the back of the room, voices raised in anger. Several other people seemed to be pretty excited, too. "*Oh, my God,*" I thought, my stomach churning and feeling slightly faint, "*I want out of here!*"

I was attending my first Area meeting, which was baffling me anyway. Everyone was talking about things I didn't understand and using acronyms and initials I didn't recognize: I knew I was a general service representative (GSR), but what or who was a GSO? A DCM? Where was Area 09, 08, 05? Had I heard something about a "Servathon" and where and when was the GSC, the ASC, the MSCA, and God knows what else?

I was two years sober, it was 1982, and later I discovered that the guys who had been pushing and shoving were hot under the collar because they didn't think that what had been published in the area newsletter was appropriate and the editor had defended it... At the time, though, my stomach knotted up and I was close to panic... I was scared to death that A.A. was coming apart at the seams, and deep down I was terrified that I wouldn't be able to stay sober if it did. I *hated* the feelings I was having and all I wanted to do was run out of there and never come back.

After meeting, I noticed that the newsletter editor and the others who had been part of the pushing and shoving were laughing and talking with each other and I overheard them saying that they were going to meet somewhere for coffee. I was perplexed...in my experience, most people I knew who had disagreements that reached that level didn't ever speak to each other again. And I was impressed, because even then I recognized that there was something about A.A. that made it possible for these people to "get over it" and move on...perhaps not giving up their disagreements, but not allowing their differences to stand in the way of their friendship and their common interests and recovery.

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

I had never developed the skills to deal with disagreement or differences of opinion. I felt uncomfortable around people who were arguing or even disagreeing and wanted to either "settle it" (I knew which was the right answer anyway) or get away as quickly as I could and never come back. I had very strong opinions of my own, but had no idea how to voice them without being overbearing or crying.

I discovered in General Service that many alcoholics are like I was: frightened of controversy, uncomfortable with differences of opinion, impatient with prolonged discussion, and often disgusted that everyone couldn't see the obvious solution to most issues.

There were two main things that kept me coming back to General Service: first, I heard (and believed) that the percentage of people in General Service who stay sober is considerably higher than the general population of A.A. I was willing to go to *any* length to stay sober...even feel dreadfully uncomfortable at General Service meetings. The second reason was that my husband had preceded me into General Service, and, frankly, I wanted to be with him.

So, I started participating: forcing myself to state my opinion at the microphone (crying, angry, pissed off, whatever) and saw that I was tolerated by most of those who had been around for a while and was told to "*keep coming back*"... (where had I heard *that* before?)

I discovered that many of us are not at all skilled at stating our opinions in a reasonable, logical, subjective, and loving way. Most of us have to practice, and practice, and practice some more. And those who have had the nerve and the courage and the willingness to do the work, have discovered that there *are* ways to be tolerant and patient with others' struggles to express themselves, to say what we mean (without *being* mean), to change our minds sometimes (when we actually keep our ears open and listen), and

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## Delegate's Corner ...continued from col. 1

support the majority opinion when all is said and done *even when it is not what we think might be best or right*. We discover that there will always be another day, another issue, another opportunity. We discover that we really can't "break" A.A., but we can increase our own abilities to be part of process in a loving and caring way.

One of our own past General Service Conference Delegates wrote a beautiful and useful job description for General Service Representatives, we call it the GSR Preamble...we read it at each area meeting, but perhaps it's time to take another close look at it... and pay special attention to the last paragraph.

*We are the General Service Representatives. We are the link in the chain of communication for our groups with the General Service Conference and the world of A.A.*

*We realize the ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express Himself in our Group Conscience. As trusted servants, our job is to bring information to our groups in order that they can reach an informed group conscience. In passing along this group conscience, we are helping to maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship.*

***Let us, therefore, have the patience and tolerance to listen while others share, the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and the wisdom to do what is right for our group and A.A. as a whole.***

***Happy new year to all of you in the Mid-Southern California Area 09 (MSCA 09)...I look forward to serving with all of you who are trudging the (not always so easy) road of General Service... and serving, as best I can, the second half of my two year term as your General Service Conference (GSC) delegate!***

Linda C.

## On the 1st Tradition ... continued from p.1, col.1

"But," some will argue, "if A.A. has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we A.A.s cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and that without A.A. there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm A.A. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

*Bill W.*

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## The Changing Face of Special Needs and What's Coming Up

Special Needs in our Area has usually just been about one thing and that is the hearing impaired, but special needs has a much wider scope to it. The elderly person who just is not able to get out to a meeting, to a remote community.

To me that is what this committee is all about: expanding the 12 step work that some of us have always done. We were given a strong foundation to stand upon; let's do the same for all those out there who feel they can't make or even get to a meeting because of their certain need.

One of the main reasons for this article is because of a correspondence I received from Marlene E. who is spokesperson for a National

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## Special Needs ... continued from previous column

Deaf Conference for Alcoholics Anonymous. *Special Needs Chair, MSCA 09*, they are looking for deaf members and (hearing AA members who can sign fluently) and who would like so be involved in putting this together right now. They have people from Texas, Washington, New York, and Oregon. They just started the reaching out process and their goal is to have a conference completely in ASL so experience strength and hope can be shared.

This sounds like a wonderful idea and I want anybody who can help to do so. We carry the message any way we can.

Please contact me if you know of anyone who might be interested in participating: [soberservicemsc09@gmail.com](mailto:soberservicemsc09@gmail.com).

*Scott R  
Special Needs Chair, MSCA 09*

## PRAASA 2011

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future - Let it Begin with Us", March 4-6, 2011, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. Due to space limitations, there will be a limited number of Saturday night banquets available, so please purchase your meals early. We do anticipate selling out.

Online registration and forms for registering by mail continue to be available at [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org) <<http://www.praasa.org>> . Hotel information is available at <http://www.tinyurl.com/praasahotel> <<http://http://www.tinyurl.com/praasahotel>> . Deadline for hotel reservations is February 1, 2011.

Two airlines are giving discounts to PRAASA attendees. For more information, go to [www.praasa.org](http://www.praasa.org).

For those of you who wish to volunteer for service during PRAASA, there is a place available online to sign up for service.

We are looking forward to the 12th step call all of our friends, old and new, from the Pacific Region will be doing on our Remote Community of Hawaii.

Please look for additional email updates from us on our website

Aloha, *Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly 2011 Committee*

## Concept One

- Okay, what's a Concept!?

Concept 1, in the short form declares, "Final Responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our entire Fellowship". Got it? Now what does it mean?

Well, to start, it almost means that the groups are in charge of A.A. services. Almost, but not quite. It really means, as stated in Tradition 2, that God is in charge, and God's will may be expressed in our collective group conscience. Okay, so how does that come about? I'm glad you asked. It comes about through the group's General Service Representative who serves as a link to the rest of A.A., or, if you will, to the collective group conscience of A.A.

What's that you say? - Your group doesn't have a General Service Representative. Well, your group is still expressing its group conscience and participating in the collective conscience of all of A.A. Your group is simply saying, "We don't care."

Well, just how important is it for a group to participate in the collective conscience of A.A. and shoulder its fair share of the responsibility and authority? Noted Sociologist, Dr. Milton Maxwell, a former Chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, and a non-alcoholic, declared in his book, "The A.A. Experience" that Alcoholics Anonymous was the first "mutual aid society" ever to survive the death of its founders. The first! Ever! If you're still with me, I hope you're asking yourself, Why A.A.? Again, I'm glad you asked. The principle stated in this concept may well be the answer - the principle of the A.A. groups running the whole shebang. If we fail, we fail because we dropped the ball. Not any outside entity. Not the government. Not any political party. Only the A.A. groups can determine the survival of A.A.

What is your group doing to ensure the survival of Alcoholics Anonymous? What are you, yes you, not your group, doing to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous is here for the next generation of alcoholics who stumble in the doors. Will that next generation of alcoholics, our children and grandchildren, find locks on the doors of the meeting rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous? Will the message they find be the same one that you and I found?

Only you and I and our A.A. groups will determine that.

*Signed, an anonymous member of A.A. in Orange County*

## Concepts Checklist, the first of 12 installments

This checklist is intended as a starting point for discussion by groups, districts or areas. Let's hear what you have to say.

### Concept I:

**Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.**

- Does our group have a general service representative (G.S.R.)? Do we feel that our home group is part of A.A. as a whole and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of A.A.?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

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### Young People in AA

Congratulations to DCYPAA which was awarded SOCALYPAA 3. The convention will be held November 24th through 27th, 2011. It will be held at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel at 888 Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Please go to SOCALYPAA.org for more info.

*Faith without works is dead,  
Willingness without action is fantasy.*

## Looking for Your Stories and Experience!

**Seventh Tradition Stories:** Do you have a personal story or anecdote that “humanizes” the impact of the Seventh Tradition on your sobriety? A.A. is looking for your story for possible inclusion in future A.A. literature. 500-800 words, double spaced. Send by February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to: GSO, Attn: Chief Financial Officer, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

**Spiritual Stories:** The trustees are looking for stories that focus on spirituality that include stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous. They are looking for stories that reflect the wide range of spiritual experiences of A.A. members, believers and unbelievers and indicate how they have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in A.A. 500-800 words, double spaced. On a separate sheet of paper please include your name, address, telephone number, and email address, as well as the project for which you are submitting your story. Send by February 15<sup>th</sup> to GSO, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or email to [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org).

**Special Needs/Accessibilities Committees:** Gayle S-R, on the Special Needs/Accessibilities desk at GSO writes: *“It would be great if you could send along some informal sharing on your experiences with one or two successful committee activities. We could add your sharing to the workbook, to an assignment update or use it for an article in Box 4-5-9.”* Sent to [specialneeds@aa.org](mailto:specialneeds@aa.org).

**Grapevine and La Viña:** Your experience, strength and hope are *always* welcome for articles in the Grapevine and La Viña magazines. For complete information on submitting articles, letters, art, or photographs to the magazines, go to [http://www.aagrapevine.org/about/submit\\_cfa.php?topic=cfat](http://www.aagrapevine.org/about/submit_cfa.php?topic=cfat) for the Grapevine and [http://www.aagrapevine.org/about/es\\_submit\\_guidelines.php](http://www.aagrapevine.org/about/es_submit_guidelines.php) for La Viña.

**MSCA 09 Newsletter!** And last, but not least... don't forget to submit information about your committee's, group's, or district's activities and/or your experience with General Service, participation in area events, service sponsorship or any topic of

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## Your Stories and Experience

...continued from previous column

general interest in Mid-Southern California Area 09. How you got into service, what it was like, what happened and what it's like now? Does your home group have a GSR? How does that work for your group? If not, how does that affect your group? Putting pen to paper can make a difference... for the writer as well as the readers!!

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### Topics for Discussion:

Consider introducing one or more of the topics below in your district and/or group discussions and workshops.... And sending your thoughts to your delegate at

[delegatepanel60@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegatepanel60@msca09aa.org)

61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference Theme: *“We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future—Let it Begin with Us”*

Conference presentation topics are:

Alcoholics Anonymous in a Digital Age  
Practicing Our Traditions in a Digital Age  
Carrying A.A.'s Message Online  
Grapevine—‘A.A.'s Meeting in Print” and More

An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A.

Self-Support—Where do Money and Spirituality Mix?

Humility—Accepting the Group Conscience

An Informed Group Conscience—Using the Three Legacies

Diversity in A.A.

The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here

The Hand of A.A.—Inclusive, never Exclusive

Tradition Five—Our Primary Purpose

Sponsorship

Importance of a Home Group

Leading by Example—Attraction, not Promotion

Recovery, Unity, Service

And the 2011 Conference Workshop Topic is: *“How to Increase Participation in A.A. —Striving for Self-Support in All our Affairs”*

## Movie Night At the Archives

On Saturday, January 15, 2011, we will kick off the 2011 Movie Night Schedule. On January 15 starting at 7 pm, we will show the production of the off-Broadway play "Bill W. and Dr. Bob." Bring your lawn chairs or chaise lounges and enjoy a classic movie about alcoholism.

### 2011 Schedule

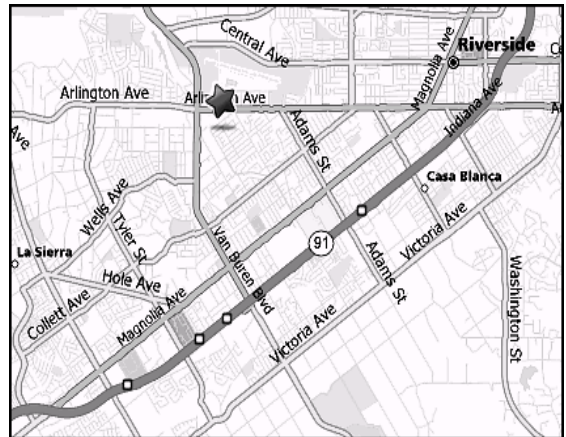
<b>My Name is Bill W (1989)</b>	<b>Saturday – Jan 15</b>
<b>When Love Is Not Enough (2010)</b>	<b>Sat.– Feb 19</b>
<b>Days of Wine &amp; Roses (1958)</b>	<b>Sat.– Mar 19</b>
<b>Clean and Sober (1988)</b>	<b>Sat.– Apr 16</b>
<b>Father Martin's Chalk Talk</b>	<b>Sat.– May 21</b>
<b>One Too Many (1950)</b>	<b>Sat.– Jun 18</b>
<b>When A Man Loves A Woman (1994)</b>	<b>Sat.– Jul 16</b>
<b>28 Days (2000)</b>	<b>Sat.– Aug 20</b>

(All features include cartoons)

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

**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.



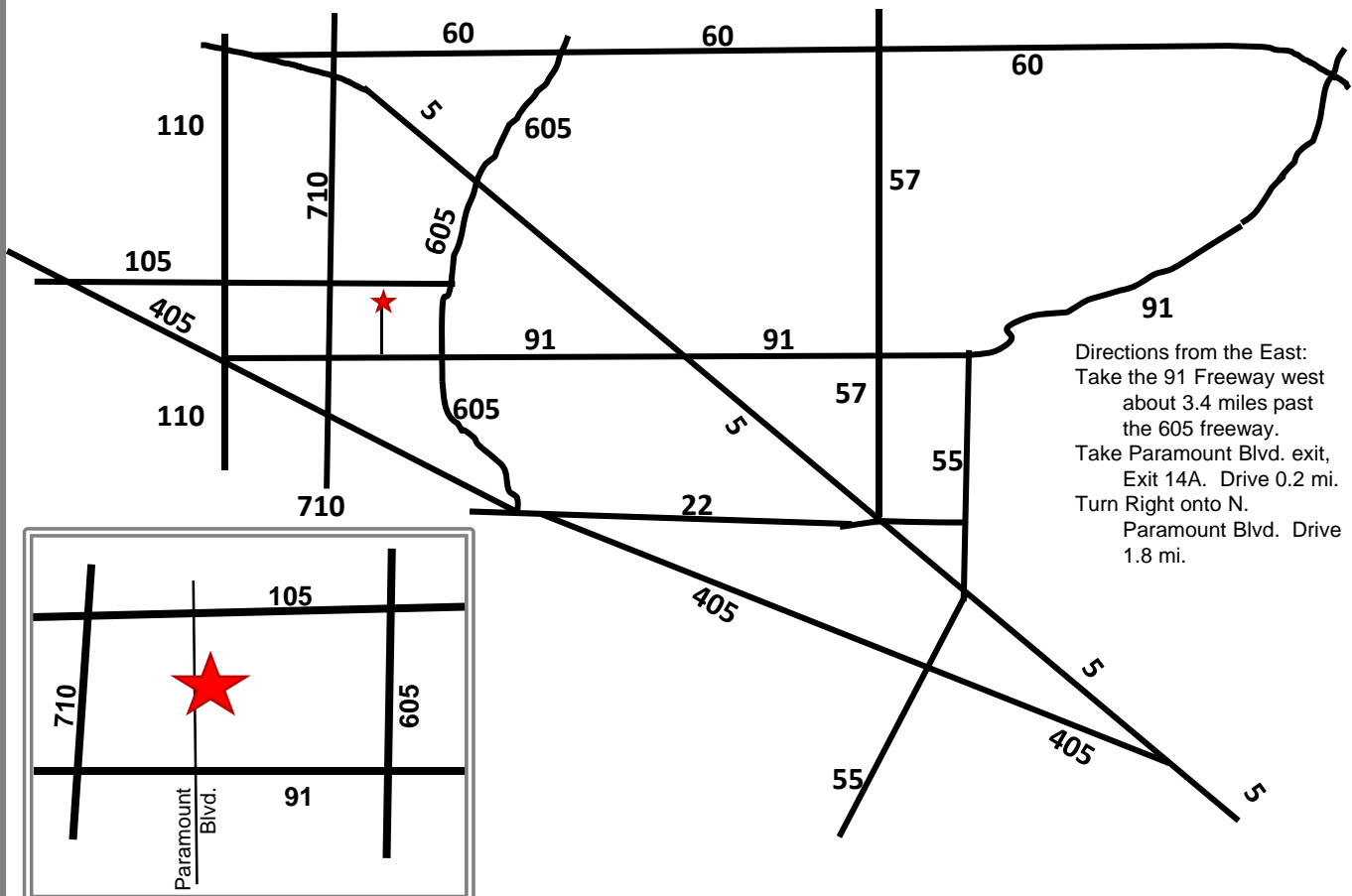
### Directions from the West:

Take the 91 freeway east, and drive 2.2 miles past the 710 freeway.  
Take the Paramount Blvd Exit from the 91 freeway (exit 14A)  
Turn left onto N. Paramount Blvd. Drive 1.9 mi.

### Assembly (GSRs vote), Jan. 9, 2011

Paramount Park, 14400 Paramount Boulevard, Paramount, CA 90723-3422

\*For times see Typical Schedule, see page 8



### Directions from the East:

Take the 91 Freeway west about 3.4 miles past the 605 freeway.  
Take Paramount Blvd. exit, Exit 14A. Drive 0.2 mi.  
Turn Right onto N. Paramount Blvd. Drive 1.8 mi.



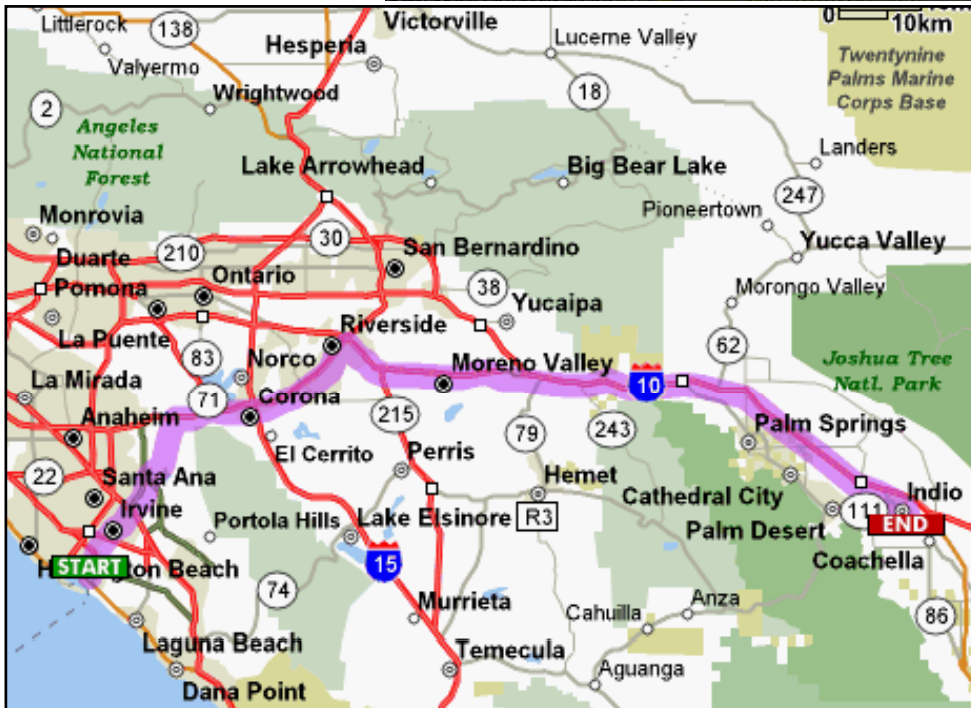
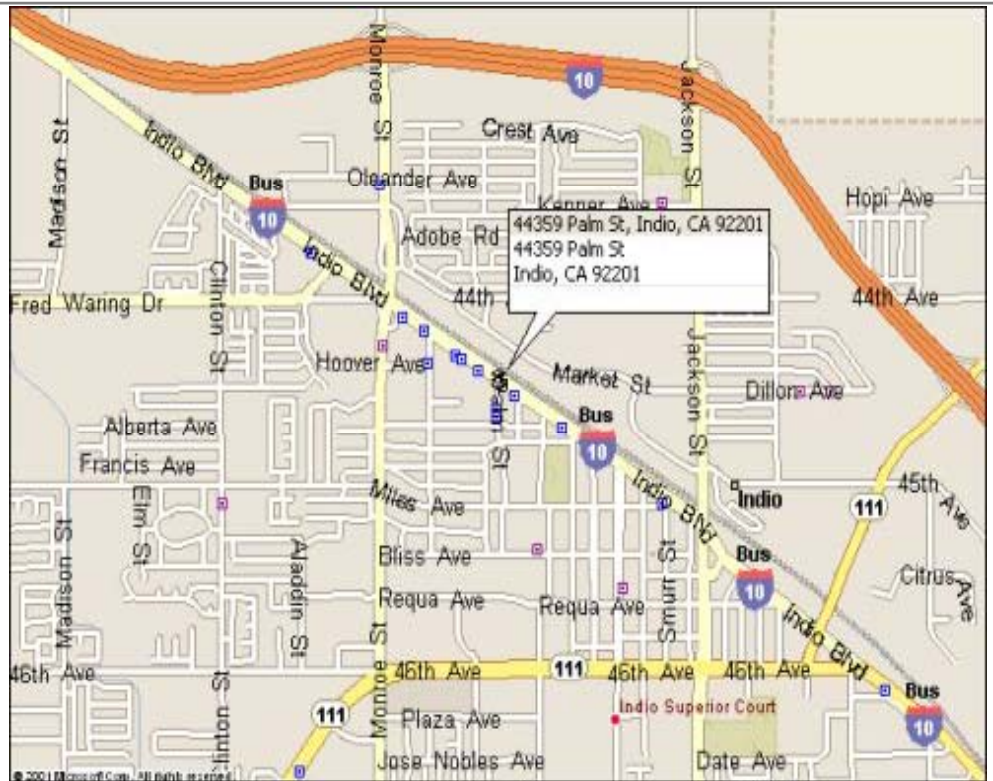
## ASC Feb.13 – Sunday

(Proposals will be presented but not voted on),  
ABC Club, 44-374 Palm St.,  
Indio CA 92201

Directions: From the west,

Take I-10 E towards Indio. Take the INDIO BLVD/JEFFERSON STREET exit toward INDIO. Stay straight to go onto INDIO BLVD.

Turn RIGHT onto PALM ST. End at 44359 PALM ST INDIO CA



### 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

\*For times see Typical Schedule, Page 8

### 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 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)*

## Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

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

\* Please note that The Delegate's Report 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:

Jan. 9- Sunday- Assembly, GSRs vote, Paramount Park, 14400 Paramount Boulevard, Paramount, CA 90723-3422

Feb.13 – Sunday – ASC, (Proposals will be presented but not voted on), ABC Club, 44-374 Palm Street, Indio CA 92201

Mar 13 – Sunday – ASC, *ASC members will vote on which proposals to put on the agenda for the next Assembly (for GSRs to vote on).*

Apr. 10 – Sunday – Pre-Conference Workshop

May 22 – Sunday – Assembly, GSRs vote

June 12 – Sunday – ASC, (Proposals will be presented but not voted on),

July 17 – Sunday – Foro

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).*

Sep. 11 – Sunday – Assembly, GSRs vote

Oct. 9 – Sunday – Election Assembly, GSRs vote

Nov. 6 – Sunday - Servathon

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	Finance Committee Chair... Jim B
CEC Chair... Doug W	Grapevine Chair... Doug M
	La Viña Chair... Mauricio T
Communications Committee Chair...Jesus O	GSR School... David B
Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Joe B	GSR School, Spanish... Renaldo A
Layout Editor...Nancy R	Literature Chair... Ernesto M
Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Jim C	Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ... tbd
Web Coordinator...Becky B	Public Information Chair... Keith S
Equipment Subcommittee Chair...Al W	Public Info., Sp... .. Marcelo C
Translation Subcommittee Chair...Santiago S	Registration Chair... Devon F
	Special Needs Chair...Scott R
Convention Liaison... Bob D	Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish...tbd
Convention Liaison, Span... tbd	Treatment Facilities Chair... John O
Corrections Chair... Alex O	
CPC Chair... Bill G	Archivist... Pete B
CPC Co-Chair, Span... Martin G	Coffee person... Paco G
DCM School... Terry S	Sound Dude...Leandro L & Raul C
DCM School Spanish ... tbd	

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to [communications@msca09aa.org](mailto:communications@msca09aa.org)