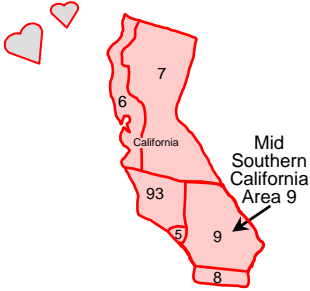


The Mid Southern California Area 9 Newsletter

The Monthly General Service Newsletter for Area 9 of the General Service Conference
P.O.Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619-1446 www.msca09aa.org

February 2008

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



New Standing Committee is Born!

On January 13, 2008, a new Standing Committee dubbed The Communications Committee, was voted into being by the Area Assembly.

The new committee's purpose is to gather together four subcommittees which have to do with internal communication functions and equipment. This will afford these subcommittees an interconnection as well as a voice. It will combine resources of those dealing with various avenues of communication.

It is proposed that the committee will consist of a chair, co-chair, members-at-large and the members of four subcommittees:

- Newsletter
- Electronic Media
- Translations
- Communications Equipment

Guidelines are being drafted for the committee and for each subcommittee, which will be incorporated into one document. The proposed draft will be submitted to the Area for review, recommendations and approval as soon as possible.

All of us on the committee hope that this consolidation of those facilitating area communications will provide the ear and the voice envisioned by this proposition.

Linda C., Chair
Communications Committee

Grapevine

Welcome to the new Area Grapevine Committee Chair, Kimberli A! You have one of the best service positions ever! Enjoy!

New from the AA Grapevine: New CD, *Powers of Example: AAs talk About Practicing the Principles in Everyday Life*. This CD includes: "So You Think You're Different?", "Inclusive Not Exclusive"; "A Program of Action"; "A God of My Understanding"; "Why Have a Home Group?" and more. FYI: A sample selection from this CD is available at WWW.aagrapevine.org.

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

Delegate's Corner.. "But trusted servants"

Joe B

Within our groups (and of course our Area) there is no such thing as individual authority. No one member "directs" or "controls" the actions of the other members of the group (or this Area).

Tradition 2. (Long Form)

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Tradition 2. (Short form)

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

Group decisions are just that, group decisions. After a discussion of all aspects of a given situation, including the minority opinion, the group votes on the issue and an agreement is reached with the majority vote. This vote is called a "group conscience."

Each group is a fellowship of equals. No matter what an individual member's background, education, or professional expertise, or amount of time sober, no member has authority "over" the Group, District or Area. In this way, the fellowship reaches out to all who would seek its comfort and provides the atmosphere of a sense of "belonging" to all members.

But: there are leaders...

This tradition has been misquoted many times as, "we have no leaders." But it clearly states that we do have leaders, they just have no authority over the rest of us. Whether they are the group's representative to the District, or the Area, or even the Delegate, they have been entrusted with the responsibility to serve those that have elected them, not make decisions for them.

We clearly have other "leaders" also. There are those, who by sharing their wisdom and strength in the meetings, who are quietly recognized by us as "spiritual leaders." There are those members, who are so well grounded in the principles and traditions of the program, the group turns to them when questions come

...Continued on p.2, col.2

Newsletter Subcommittee Chair Needed

Printing, sorting & distributing the Newsletter is pretty much a one person job; though the more people you have helping you, the easier it can be. Layout can be done by a Newsletter Editor (the Newsletter Committee Guidelines called for a Newsletter Editor). Gathering articles and information can be done by everyone on the Newsletter Committee, although it is up to the Newsletter Chair as to what makes it into the final copy.

The first part is **Content**: You and the rest of your committee can ask people to submit articles to the newsletter – some will even submit monthly like the previous Delegate's Corner or articles on the Concepts or Traditions. I have found that the Area Officers will always submit articles if requested to do so. The Committee Chairs are also eager to share what their Committees are up to. But it is up to the discretion of the Newsletter Chair for what is accepted and what is rejected – and you can always run them by other members of the Area Communications Committee if you are unsure.

The next part is **Editing & Layout**: The Newsletter Editor uses a template which includes the header and guidelines, so that the newsletter looks fairly similar from one issue to the next. Use of the template also makes it easy to generate each newsletter, because once the template is used, it is easy to re-use for the next issues. Editing consists of using standard software spell checks and grammar checks, and correcting any errors found. Once the editor has collected, edited and laid out the newsletter, it is reviewed by the Newsletter Chair (and any other proofreaders you might select) for correctness, consistency with AA principles (e.g. no anonymity breaks), clarity, etc. Only the Newsletter Chair can give the final okay to go to print.

Last is **Printing & Distribution**: Take the finished product to a printer and have them printed out – we know how many copies by keeping a list of who needs what. Then comes the fun part of separating them for each Receiver (District, Central Office, Clubs & Other Committees) & bagging them for taking to the monthly Area Assembly or ASC. It usually takes me about 3 hours to do it, but that's because I watch movies while I do – otherwise, it probably takes an hour.

Being the Newsletter Chair is a rewarding experience & I didn't drink the entire time I had the commitment.

Russ D

But Trusted Servants .. *Continued from p.1. col.2*

up involving possible violations of those principles and traditions. These too are leaders, but they also do not govern.

This brings to mind the bleeding deacons and elder statesmen that are referred to in our 12 & 12.

I have heard many in my group and Area called this, but it wasn't until just recently I came to understand how to identify them. (Or "myself" when I get carried away thinking I'm all that. (definition from my trusty well thumbed 1947 Webster's dictionary))

Bleeding deacon [n]

A person who believes himself indispensable to a group,

esp. a person who becomes so over-involved in a group's internal management, policies, or politics as to lose sight of its larger goals; (hence) a person with a negative, moralizing character, who acts like the sole source of wisdom.

Elder Statesmen [n.]

A person, advanced in years and experience, especially a politician or former politician, who is respected for his or her wisdom and whose advice is still valued and unofficially sought

These are both leaders aren't they? One type leads through condescending intimidation using his experience as the only rule of example. Not that there is any malicious intent to bring down the whole structure of the group, (District or Area) they just can not see how others could be so wrong and not see how they are so right. And you know what... they just may be right. I just don't believe that their being right makes others wrong.

This is why I adore the literature that is available to all of us, we are able to find something that we have no experience with, look into our literature and develop our own knowledge allowing us go out into the world and make our own experiences. And if it is your experience... how can that be wrong?

Here are three questions taken from the "A.A. Grapevine's Twelve Traditions Checklist" that I would like you to reflect on about Tradition Two.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
3. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Please let me know what you're experience has been.

Joe B.

Grapevine ...continued

And speaking of aagrapevine.org, check it out! You can subscribe to the AA Grapevine, get gift subscriptions for your sponsor, sponsee, home group, doctor, library, uncle Harry. You may sign up for the audio version of the magazine, download it each month into your computer, MP3 player or iPod and listen at your pleasure. The 2008 calendar and day planner are available on the catalogue page, and you can share your experience, strength and hope on the I Say bulletin board....and lots more...

Want to know how many days, hours, minutes, seconds you've been sober? Check it out at aagrapevine.org!

Message from the Executive Editor of the AAGrapevine, Robin B.:
Happy New Year from the AA Grapevine!

"New Year's Resolution," this month's cover story, highlights the simple, profound changes that the principles of AA can make in the way sober alcoholics deal with family. Accepting the damage alcoholism has done to himself and his family, the author not only manages to shift his own behavior but also looks to the future with love and hope. That's an example of the kind of honesty and tolerance I'd like to follow in the year to come.

But I've learned in AA that I cannot do that alone. I need to hear stories from alcoholics facing life's challenges without drinking to learn how to handle the challenges in my own life. I need to read stories by alcoholics who grow and flourish when they open their minds and hearts to other people in order to trust that love and tolerance will work for me as well. So let me take the time to thank you all for helping to make sure stories like this were available in the Grapevine and La Vina this year to everyone who needed them and for helping to make sure they will be there for those to come.

Speaking of looking forward, I want to announce the arrival of a new art director here at the Grapevine. A longstanding member of AA, Kim K. is putting the finishing touches on the next issue. So you can expect a few changes in the look of the Grapevine you get in February along with great stories about Tradition 2, Twelfth-Stepping and dating in sobriety.

3rd Annual A.A. Seniors In Sobriety Conference

Queen Mary Hotel
Long Beach, California
May 20, 21, 22 & 23, 2008

Featuring:

**Meetings, Workshops & Fellowship
Luncheon, Banquet and Speakers
Entertainment**
**Stateroom rate: \$129 (applies 3 days
before and 3 days after conference)**
**Excursions – Long Beach Sites & Avalon
(Catalina Island)**
Full AI-Anon Participation

**Our Purpose - International Seniors In
Sobriety Conference**
**This conference will focus on concerns
and issues impacting seniors, their
spouses and family with both short term
and long term sobriety. It will provide an
opportunity for alcoholics of all ages to
discuss the effects of aging on sober
alcoholics and how to help the still-
suffering senior alcoholic.**
**Our history began with a conference in
Kona, Hawaii and continued with another
in Sedona, Arizona. We intend to use
experiences from these events to create
yet another highly enjoyable and
rewarding conference.**

For more information and registration forms,
go to
www.2008SISconference.org

Concept II (Long Form)

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.

A.A. Taught Him To Handle Sobriety

As many of you have heard Bob P. passed away on Jan. 1st, 2008.

Bob was a member of the To Handle Sobriety Group of Wood River, Idaho; former General Manager of the General Service Office in New York, the author of the last story in the Big Book, "AA Taught Him To Handle Sobriety"; and served as a General Service Trustee from 1968 – 1971 among the many ways he served Alcoholics Anonymous.

Website traffic

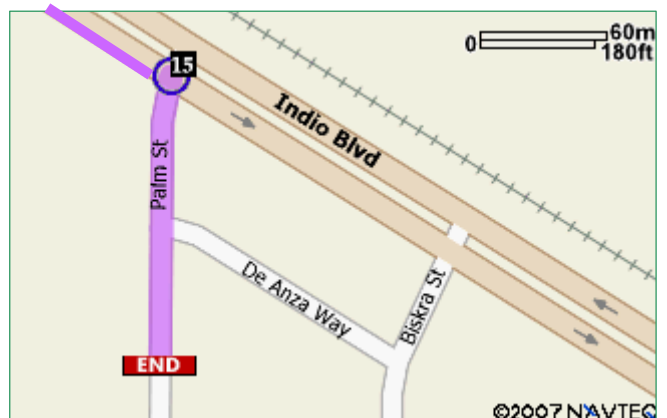
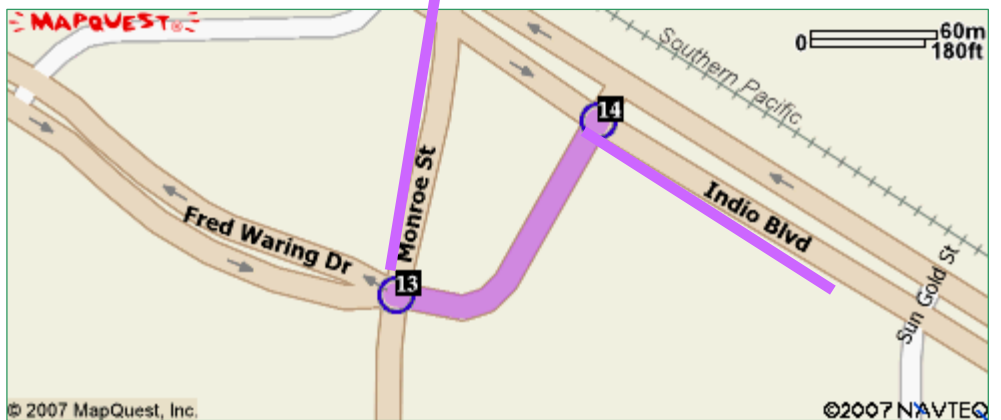
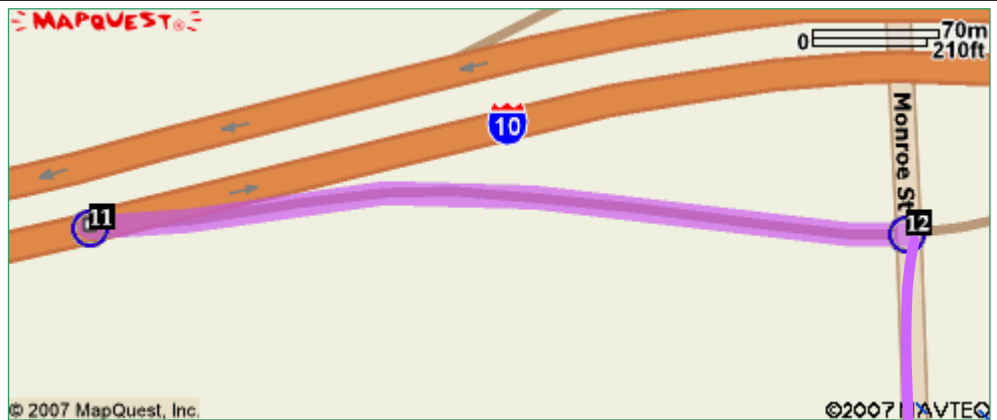
In December, 2007, there was an average of 194 visitors (i.e. sessions) per day to our MSCA website, www.msca09aa.org. During those sessions, there was a total of 28,420 hits during the month. The page that got the most hits, by far, was the "To Find an AA Meeting" page. It got 3,171 hits during December. This is the page that directs people to Central Offices and AA meeting directories across the entire Mid-Southern California Area..

Feb. 10 ASC

ABC Recovery Ctr
Inc:760-342-4802
44374 Palm St Indio,
CA 92201, US

Directions from the West:

- Take I 10 east to Indio.
- From I10, Take the MONROE ST exit toward CENTRAL INDIO. Drive 0.2 miles.
- Turn RIGHT onto MONROE ST. Drive 0.7 miles.
- Turn LEFT onto MONROE ST / MONROE BLVD ACCESS RD / INDIO BLVD. Drive <0.1 miles
- Turn RIGHT onto INDIO BLVD / I-10 BL E. Drive 0.3 miles
- Turn RIGHT onto PALM ST. Drive <0.1 miles.
- End at **44374 Palm St**
Indio, CA 92201-3117, US



ATTENTION!

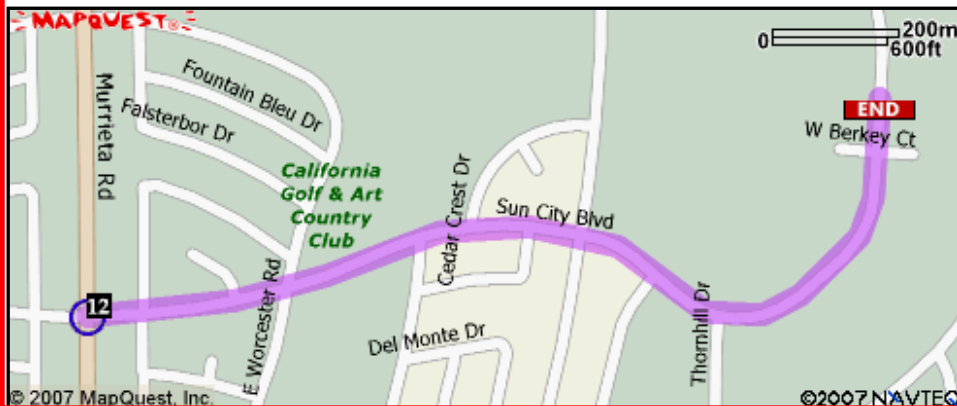
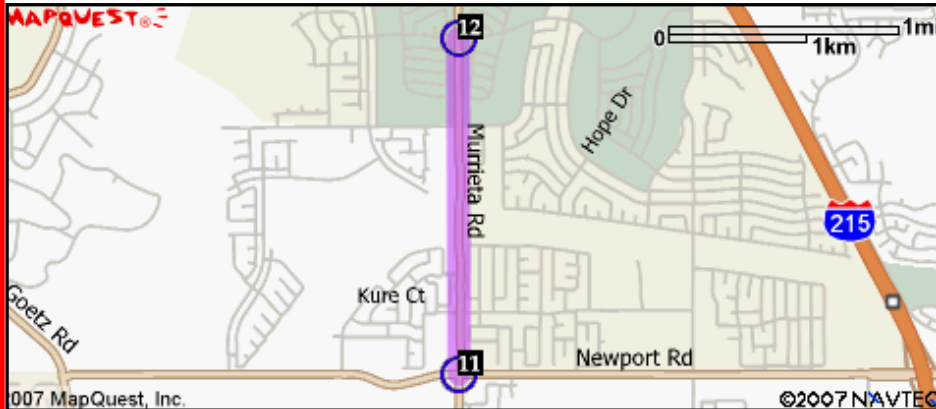
DIFFERENT SCHEDULE at Feb. 10 ASC

- 8:30 -- Registration
- 9:00-10:15: -- Delegate's Sharing Session
- 9:30-10:15: -- DCM/GSR Schools
- 10:30: -- Area Service Committee meeting begins
- 1:00,-Lunch
- Circa1:30—Standing Committee Meetings

March 16 ASC

26850 Sun City Blvd.,
Sun City, CA 92586-2948

North Town Hall building* of the
Sun City Civic Association



Directions
From the
northeast
or the east:
Take I-215 S
toward
San
Diego/East
ridge
Ave./Eucalyptus Ave.
Take the
McCall
Blvd exit
toward
Sun City.
Drive .3
mi.
Turn right
onto
McCall
Blvd.
Drive .2
mi.
Turn left onto
Sun City
Blvd.
Drive half
a mile.

Directions from Orange County:
Take CA-91 E toward RIVERSIDE.
Merge onto I-15 S toward SAN
DIEGO.22.5 miles
Take the DIAMOND DRIVE exit
toward Railroad Cyn Rd, 0.2 mi.
Turn LEFT onto DIAMOND DR.<0.1
miles.
DIAMOND DR becomes RAILROAD
CANYON RD.4.2 miles
RAILROAD CANYON RD becomes
GOETZ RD.0.5 miles
Turn RIGHT onto Newport Rd.1.7 mi.
11:Turn LEFT onto MURRIETA
RD.1.3 miles
12:Turn RIGHT onto SUN CITY
BLVD. 0.9 mi.

Upcoming Events

Feb, 10, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (Dist 9) **ABC Recovery Ctr Inc:**760-342-4802 44374 Palm St Indio, CA 92201, US Note different schedule at this ASC (see below)

Mar. 7, 8 and 9, PRAASA 2008, Egan Convention Center, 555 W. 5th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501. Opening will be at 1 pm Friday, and closing will be at 12 pm Sunday. Registration forms can be found on our MSCA website, at www.msca09aa.org

Mar, 16, 2008, ASC, Sunday, (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), North Town Hall, Sun City Civic Association, 26850 Sun City Blvd., Sun City, CA 92586-2948. (District 17)

Apr.13, 2008, Sunday, Pre-Conference Workshop (**GSRs vote**), District 10

May 18, 2008, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**), (District 20)

June 8, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 1)

July 13, 2008, Sunday, Foro (District 22 & 30)

Aug. 10, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), (District 15)

Sep. 14, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**), (District 4)

Oct.12, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 7)

Nov. 8, 2008, Servathon (Saturday) (District 3)

Dec. 14, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), District 18

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.

ATTENTION! DIFFERENT SCHEDULE at Feb. 10 ASC

- 8:30 -- Registration
- 9:00-10:15: -- Delegate's Sharing Session
- 9:30-10:15: -- DCM/GSR Schools
- 10:30: -- Area Service Committee meeting
- 1:00,-Lunch
- 1:30—Standing Committee Meetings

Panel 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, et al.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Archives Chair...Joseph H | GSR School, Spanish... Paco G |
| Communications...Linda C | Literature Chair...Maggie R |
| CEC...Rick H | Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ... |
| CPC...Michael McK | Newsletter Subcommittee |
| CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S | Chair... |
| Convention Liaison...Mike | Newsletter Co-Chair, Spanish... |
| Convention Liaison, Spn...Jose A | Public Information Chair...Kay M |
| Corrections Chair...Patrick C | Public Info., Sp...Francisco D |
| DCM School...Scott R | Registration...David T |
| DCM School Spanish | Special Needs Chair... |
| Electronic Media Sub- | Special Needs Co-Chair, |
| Committee... | Spanish.... |
| Equipment Subcommittee... | Translation Subcommittee... |
| Finance Committee | Jorge |
| Chair...Joseph M | Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F |
| Grapevine Chair...Kimberli A | Webservant...Becky B |
| La Vina Chair...Angela R | Sound Dude... Raul C |
| GSR School...John H | Coffee person...Mauricio T |

Panel 58 Area Officers

Delegate: Joe B
 Alternate Delegate: Mike M
 Chair: Jason S
 Secretary: Ruth D
 Treasurer: Linda H
 Registrar: Cesar F