

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

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

December 2004

Write an article for the Grapevine by *Melissa B*

All material submitted to the Grapevine becomes the property of the AA Grapevine, Inc., and cannot be returned. Wow, they accepted!!

Can you imagine it coming true? Guidelines for Contributing to The AA Grapevine or La Viña invites us: "It's *Your Meeting in Print: Why Not Share?*"

AA Members around the world have been submitting their personal stories, their sorrows and joys, their ups, downs, and in-betweens to the AA Grapevine since 1944. Why not join them? You don't have to have had prior publishing experience. All you need is a little willingness and the desire to share. Here are some suggestions to guide you.

Writing Articles: Before writing, you might want to leaf through a few issues to see what kinds of articles are published. Most are first-person accounts of the writer's experience with alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. The magazine also publishes many stories for special departments, such as Youth Enjoying Sobriety, Along Spiritual Lines, The Home Group, AA Around the World, and Spotlight on Service. Articles about the Steps and Traditions, jokes for Ham on Wry, and letters for PO Box 1980 and Your Move are welcome, too, as are submissions to I-say and Rule 62 on the website. But you are not confined to these topics. We're always looking for innovative material, as long as it related to AA experience and reflects an awareness of AA's singleness of purpose. Articles are reviewed by the editorial staff and selected by consensus, a process which can take several months. But all contributors receive a reply from the staff, whether their manuscripts are published or not.

Length and format: The Grapevine publishes work of different lengths, from snappy one-liners and one-paragraph anecdotes to five- or six-page typewritten articles (2000 – 3000 words). Typewritten manuscripts should be double-spaced. Manuscripts sent by e-mail should be submitted in the body of the message or as attached files, saved as only in "Word" or "Simple text." Handwritten manuscripts should be written clearly on one side of the paper.

...continued on page 2, col.1

Why Should I Be a Grapevine / La Viña Representative?

From the Grapevine recruitment sheet. Reprinted with permission of The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Why should an AA member take on the job of GvR / RLV? Service in AA is a time honored way to maintain and enhance sobriety, and in that light, being a GvR / RLV is just one of many avenues available to AAs. But some of us think that representing the Grapevine offers a number of special advantages.

The GvR / RLV performs a service for AA members – bringing them the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The GvR / RLV performs a service for the Grapevine, La Viña, linking the magazine to members of the Fellowship who might not otherwise read it or even be aware of it.

The GvR / RLV is engaged in practical hands-on work. The GvR's / RLV's basic job is to work at the group level, getting information about the Grapevine / La Viña to members, promoting each issue, and encouraging subscriptions.

The GvR / RLV is engaged in active Twelfth Step work. The Grapevine's / La Viña's readable style, up-to-date stories, and pocket size are particularly useful to beginners in AA.

The GvR / RLV becomes more aware of AA history. The magazine has been an important part of AA since the Fellowship was only nine years old, so learning about the magazine is a good way to learn about AA history as well.

The GvR / RLV gets a chance to be involved in wider circles of service. In many areas, the GvR / RLV meet with district GvRs / RLVs and area chairpersons to swap ideas, problems, and solutions. GvRs / RLVs often attend regional forums and area assemblies.

...continued on page 2, col.2

The MSCA forms a new Ad Hoc Committee

.....The Native American Outreach Ad Hoc Committee. (The person to contact is Marita H of District 9). You can contact her via the MSCA web site (see home page).



...Write an article for the Grapevine (continued from p.1)

Submitting Photographs, Illustrations, and Cartoons

Photographs may be submitted for "Picture This" or "If Walls Could Talk." We also use photographs, line drawings, and paintings when they relate to specific articles. The Annual Grapevine Photo Contest for photographs for the Grapevine wall calendar is announced in the February issue. Original cartoons, which have not been published anywhere else, are also welcome.

Format: The Grapevine accepts original black & white or color photographs, slides, and art, in any size. Are sent via e-mail must be in a JPEG or GIF format, no larger than 90K. Photographs must be scanned using a very high resolution (at least 600 dpi).

What the magazine does not publish: Poems, prayers, song lyrics, tributes to individuals, plays, previously published material, anything unrelated to AA or that violates the principles of AA.

Send submissions by mail to The Grapevine, Editorial Dept., 475 Riverside Dr., Ste. 1040, New York, NY 10115 or by e-mail to gveditorial@aagrapevine.org Please include your full postal address so we can respond to your submission, even when you use e-mail. Directions for contributing to I-Say or Rule 62 on the website can be found at www.aagrapevine.org

So, what are you waiting for? You've a story to tell – carry the message, TODAY! See you in the Grapevine.

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Concept 12 (long form)

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

...Why Should I Be a Grapevine / La Viña Representative? (continued from page 1, col. 2)

The GvR / RLV is encouraged to read the magazine every month – an advantage all by itself! The Grapevine / La Viña is a mix of inspiration, personal stories, history, humor, diverse opinions, reporting, and good solid AA tools, all rolled into one resource. For over fifty years it has helped thousands of AAs stay sober, carry the message, and keep connected to AA principles and practices.

Interested? Download the form at www.msca09aa.org/grapevine or Please write: GvR / RLV Coordinator, PO Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York NY 10163-1980 or e-mail gvr@aagrapevine.org

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2005 MSCA meeting schedule

Approved at the Sept. 12, 2004 MSCA Assembly

Jan. 9...Assembly (Host: District 19)
Feb. 13...ASC (Host: District 20)
Mar. 6...ASC (Host: District 3)
Apr. 3...Pre-Conference Workshop (Host: Dist 9)
May 15...Assembly (Host: District 15)
June 12...ASC (Host: District 2)
July 10...Foro (Host: Districts 10 & 24)
Aug. 14...ASC (Host: District 11)
Sept. 11...Assembly (Host: District 12)
Oct. 2...Heritage Day (Host: District 19)
Oct. 9...Election Assembly (Host: District 1)
Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: District 14)
Nov. 13...ASC (Host: District 5)
Dec. 11...ASC (Host: District 6)

Tradition 12 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:
And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Announcement: The Other 12&12

Note: This announcement is listed here solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the MSCA

There is a weekly **Concepts and Traditions Meeting** that meets on Sunday at 5:30pm, 705 W. La Veta Ste. 208, Orange, CA 92867.

The Spirit of Rotation

By Mike M

In the long form of tradition 9 it talks about the spirit of rotation. "Each AA group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employ a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are in effect, our AA General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our AA Tradition and the receivers of voluntary AA contributions by which we maintain our AA General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the AA Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in AA are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

There many reasons for this but here's what made me think up this article: At my Wednesday Men's stag I used to sit in the same seat in the middle of the room week after week. This past Wednesday the topic was "what do we do to stay sober" .I thought back to that seat in the middle of all those men that I value so much .That seat was my seat and I was going to keep it no matter what ! You all have taught me so much and helped me grow as a member an as a human being and that seat was part of that growth. To get here I had to give up being there, we surrender what we want to serve others and to stay sober. Many "seats" have I sat in, clean up, secretary, set-up, GSR, chair and all of them I gave up so someone else could learn , grow and bring their talents to bear in service to their fellows. It is yet another way in which to "pass on" what has been given us. Doing some research on this topic I came across an article in the Grapevine titled "*The Spirit of Rotation*" from June 1996. He talks about our experience that should be freely given and I believe as he does that rotation means "*I made my contribution in this capacity. Where can I be of use next?*"

My contribution years ago was keeping that seat warm for a newcomer but I didn't know it at the time. I don't believe that I will live long enough to repay what Alcoholics Anonymous and my Higher power have seen fit to give me. The "coincidences" are staggering, and yet it is what I have come to expect as I trudge down that road of happy destiny. As long as I am willing to work the steps and pass along what I have learned, I have a chance at another day.

A lot of what has been "passed" along to me is written, in the Big Book, in the Grapevine, stories in our local Central Office newsletter, literature, Histories of groups and individuals in AA. These have served to help me serve you better and appreciate our traditions, our history and the need to preserve those for future generations. I want to do what I can to make sure AA is here for those to come as it was for me. To me the spirit of rotation is not only in giving up that seat but in being willing to share my experience, strength and hope using the gifts God has given me. Showing anyone who asks how I did things and encouraging them to try service positions. Read something, write something, learn and teach, pass it on to those you reach ! Save our history and the wealth of experience held by old timers in your group by recording them or writing your group's history. Someday someone will ask "what happened?". History can tell us the answer! It is my intent that this inspires you to look at your group in a new light. The Big Book is a History book if you think about it, containing the experience as we struggled to form AA as we know it and the steps we took to stay sober. Rotate out but don't just walk away leaving someone in the dark, stick around to make sure the lights stay on and the bills get paid. Help setting up and give that person who just took on a commitment some words of encouragement. I hope to sit in many more "seats" before I'm through, so save a seat for me in the middle of the room! May God keep you and smile upon you until then.

Archivist Workshop

There will be an Archivist Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005 from 10 am to 1 pm (pot luck lunch provided) at the Repository in Riverside...6922 Brockton Ave., Riverside.

Open to all District, Intergroup, and Group Archivist/Historians

Come learn what you can do to help preserve the history of AA where you live.

Please RSVP archives@msca09aa.org

Handouts:

Archives Guidelines GSO	Taping guidelines
History of Area 9 Archives Committee	List of Conservation/Preservation mailing address
Archives Committee guidelines	Committee Roster
Oregon Area District Guidelines	GSO Address

Workshop Topics (about 30 minutes each)

I am an Archivist, now what?

District Archivist Guidelines
Way to help each other
Channel of communication

What to collect and what not to collect

What to preserve and what not to
Setting up a District Archives

Simple preservation & conservation

Dust jacket covers
Filmplast
Dry cleaning pad

Lunch Break (Chili, chips & drink)

How to do oral histories

Tape an old-timer as example

Tracing a Group history

Show all the means at disposal to search histories
Group members
Meeting Directories
Local Central Office
Newsletters
GSO Directories
GSO Archives

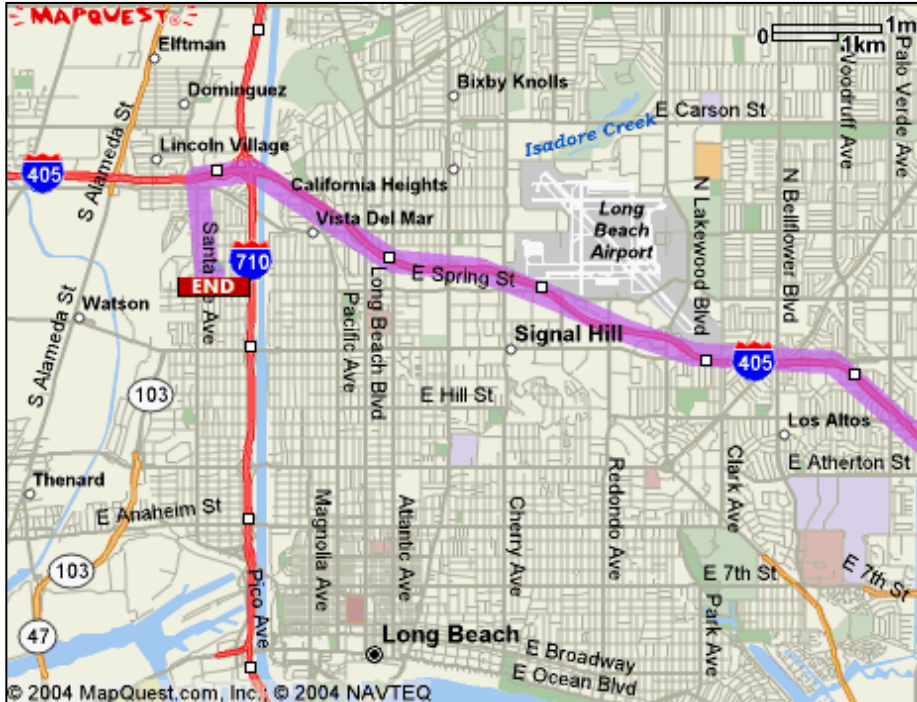
Summary/Questions and Answers

Go over the basic ideas from each topic
Open for questions & answer

Area Service Committee

(ASC) meeting, hosted by District 4, **Dec. 12, 2004** Silverado Park, 1545 West 31st Street, Long Beach, 90810

Directions from the south: Take I-405 north toward Santa Monica. Take the I-710 exit toward Long Beach. Take the I-405 N exit on the left toward Santa Monica. Take exit toward Santa Fe Ave. Turn left onto Warnack Way. Turn left onto Santa Fe Ave. Turn left onto W. 31st St.



Upcoming Events

Dec. 12 (Sunday): MSCA ASC*, hosted by District 4, Silverado Park, 1545 West 31st Street, Long Beach, 90810

Jan 8 (Saturday): Archivist Workshop, at the Archives Repository in Riverside

Jan 9 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly*, hosted by District 19 (Eastern Div.)

Mar. 11-13 PRAASA 2005, 181 W. Broadway, Tucson, Arizona

*Schedule for most MSCA ASCs and Assemblies:

- 9:30 am..... GSR School
- 9:30 am..... Delegate's Sharing Session
- 10:15 am..... Committees meet
- 11:30 am..... lunch
- Noon until 3:30...main meeting

2005 H and I Conference, Apr. 29, 30 and May 1, Doubletree Hotel, Orange. Planning meetings are 1st Sunday of each month @ 1:30 pm – at 205 W. 1st Street, Suite 206, Tustin

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

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.

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 cochairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 54 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, and other Area 9 trusted servants

Archives Chair...Pete B	Finance Chair...Mike M	Newsletter Cochair Spanish...Jesus O
Archives Cochair...Ron E	Grapevine Chair...Melissa B	Public Information Chair...Christine S
CPC...Maggie R	La Vina Chair...Raul C	Public Information, Spanish...Ezequiel G
CPC Spanish Cochair...Miguel M	GSR School...Jim B	Registration...Henry B
Convention Liaison...Jason S	GSR School, Spanish...Felipe G	Special Needs Chair...Nancy B
Convention Liaison, Spanish...Arturo F	Literature Chair...Craig S	Special Needs Spanish Cochair..vacant
Correctional Facilities Chair...Alex N	Literature Spanish Cochair...vacant	Archivist...Charles K
DCM School...Phil L	Treatment Facilities Chair...Patrick S	Audio Equipment...Joseph M
Electronic Media...Nancy R	Newsletter Chair...Nancy R	Coffee Maker...Suzy C

Area Officers (Panel 54)

Delegate.....Nancy J
delegate@msca09aa.org

Chairperson.....Bruce H
chairperson@msca09aa.org

Secretary.....Cesar F
secretary@msca09aa.org

Alt. Delegate...Carlos M
altdelegate@msca09aa.org

Registrar...Linda H
registrar@msca09aa.org

Treasurer.....Joe B
treasurer@msca09aa.org

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to: Nancy R: newsletter@msca09aa.org

