

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 2005

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



Preliminary Agenda Items Available

The Preliminary Agenda Items for the upcoming General Service Conference can now be found on our website, www.msca09aa.org both in English and in Spanish. We will begin discussing these items and what they mean to us at the Feb. 13 Delegate Sharing Session (9:30 am on the day of the ASC). GSRs: It is important that you each discuss these items with the group you represent, and to convey your group's opinions to our MSCA Delegate.

AA Literature on Web

There are many items of AA Literature and other AA information available on the aa.org website – a very handy resource for current AA members, potential AA members, the professional community, and the general public. Items available on this aa.org website include:

Box 459, AA Guidelines (for Committees), AA Fact Sheet, The AA preamble Background Information, Concepts Checklist, Estimates of AA Groups and Members, How to Conduct a Sharing Session, Is Your Group Linked to AA As a Whole?, The 12 Concepts for World Service, The 12 Traditions of AA, The 12 Steps of AA, Traditions Checklist, Sponsorship – a Vital Stepping-Stone to Service & Sobriety, Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings, Suggested Workshop Format, The AA Group, Self Support, Regional Forums and Special Forums, FAQ About AA Web Sites, AA New Group Form, AA Change of Group Information,	Area Map of US and Canada, Regional Map of US and Canada, Your AA General Service Office, How to order AA literature, About AA – Newsletter for Professionals, AA At A Glance, Information on AA, Is AA For You?, 44 Questions, A Newcomer Asks, A Message to Teenagers, Do You Think You're Different?, Is There an Alcoholic In Your Life?, A Brief Guide to AA, Readings For AA Archivists (including Archives Guidelines, and The AA Archives), Markings (Your Archives interchange, Newsletter), Is There an Alcoholic In Your Life, Letter to Anyone New to AA, The Big Book, PSAs (Public Service Announcements, in video form)
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Service Manual now posted on Web

"The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service" has recently been posted on the aa.org website under "Services for Members". This should be a very handy reference for GSRs who can't find, or haven't yet received, their own printed copy of this service manual.

Treatment Facilities Committee

By Patrick S

First of all, thanks to everyone who made the adventurous journey to Apple Valley last month. Despite the weather conditions, we had a good turnout and I am grateful for the people who were able to attend. Since our budget for 2005 is precarious, it does not look like we will be trying to host a workshop this year.

The annual H&I Conference is returning to the Doubletree Hotel in Orange for the next 5 years. This conference was founded in large part by the efforts of Jim H over 20 years ago when he and his wife Mickey lived in the Long Beach area. Jim and Mickey moved to Utah many years ago; however, we are privileged to have Jim scheduled to be one of the speakers at the conference this year.

Speaking of the conference, it is put on annually by the Southern California H&I Intergroup. To learn more about the H&I Intergroup Committee, you can check out their web site at: www.aahandi.org. The committee is currently in the conference-planning stage and would appreciate volunteers to help make the conference a success. If you would like to get involved, the planning meetings are held on the 1st Sun. of every month at 1:30 pm at the District 20 meeting place: 205 W. 1st Street, #206, Tustin. The conference will be held on April 29, 30th and May 1, 2005. Registration forms will be available at the next ASC in Garden Grove.

Please come and participate in our committee meetings at 10:15 am immediately prior to Area meetings. We are still in the early stages of growth and welcome your experience, strength and hope.

Devotedly Yours, Patrick S., MSCA09 T.F.C.

District Archivist Workshop

By Charles K

The Archives Workshop held January 15th, was a total success! Although we had to move the date back a week because of bad weather, we had 16 interested members who all wanted to learn more about archives and how to collect and preserve our history.

We covered such topics as "I am a District Archivist, now what?" and "How to do oral histories." During the segment on "How to do a Group History," we showed samples of the material housed in the Archives that will help in compiling Group histories. Sources included old newsletters, meeting directories, old Grapevines along with several others. There was even a brief talk on how to preserve the document that might be collected. Things such as dust jacket covers, acid free folders, and storage boxes were discussed. A lot of questions and answers ended the program with much discussion on many of the topics covered during the day.

The coffee, chili lunch and fellowship couldn't be beat, and despite having to change the date, the Archives Committee deemed the event as a success. The Archives Committee has decided this maybe a worthwhile endeavor and will surely plan another one at a later date. The committee is even considering doing something like it, on a smaller scale, at the monthly Area meetings, as a way to help train and equip District Archivist in their job of preserving their district history.

If your District does not have a District Archivist, we suggest you elect one soon. As we plan more and more events centered on these archivists, we would not want your district left out. If you have any questions about how your district can get more involved in the Archives, please feel free to contact us. And if you need members of our committee to come to your district meeting for a presentation, we would be more than willing to accommodate. Thanks to everyone who participated in this workshop.

MSCA Archives Committee

Concept 2 (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.

Many Areas Link to Central Offices

By Nancy R

Many AA General Service Areas in the U.S. have web sites. I find it very interesting to look at these websites to see what our sister-areas are doing. The aa.org website has a list of (and a link to) about 50 of these Area websites. To find them, go to aa.org, click "Services for Members", then click "Contact Local AA" (yellow tab near top of screen), then click "General Service Conference Area Web sites". You can use this list of links to go to one area web site after another. Many of them list meetings right on their websites. Many others link to their local central office websites to help folks find meetings. Our MSCA website will also soon link to consenting local central offices (i.e. those who give us permission to list their addresses, phone numbers, and to link to their websites) in our area. We are in the process of asking the central offices if they would like to be listed so that when non-local AAs come to our Area, and come to the MSCA web site to find a meeting, we can help direct them quickly to our local central offices and their contact points and meeting lists.

Service Material

As many of you know, service material differs from Conference-approved literature in that it has not come about through Conference Advisory Action. It is produced when there is a need for readily available information on a specific subject. Service material reflects A.A. group experience as well as specific and timely information that is subject to change. Service material is available to A.A. members from the General Service Office upon request.

Some examples of service material that are available on the aa.org website (under "Services for Members") are:

A.A. Fact Sheet	The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous
A.A. Guidelines	The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous
A.A. Preamble	Sponsorship – a Vital Stepping-Stone to Service & Sobriety
The A.A. Preamble: Background Information	Suggested Topics For Discussion Meetings
Concepts Checklist	Suggested Workshop Format
Estimates of A.A. Groups and Members	Loners-Internationalists
How to Conduct a Sharing Session	Correspondence Service
Is Your Group Linked to A.A. As a Whole?	
The Twelve Concepts for World Service	
Traditions Checklist	

Bridging the Gap

From AA Pamphlet P-49

“As you know, one of the more “slippery” places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the (treatment) facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting... In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous... It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.'s; insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several A.A. members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.”

If you wish to volunteer for this type of MSCA 12-Step work,

email hospital-treatment@msca09aa.org

and be sure to include your name, address, day phone, evening phone, email address and sobriety date.

Traveling, and need to find a meeting? The aa.org website can help.

By Nancy R

The aa.org website has a list of central offices all over the world. It also has a link to many of them. Just go to aa.org, click on “Services for Members”, then click on “Contact Local AA” (a yellow tab), then, at the bottom of that page, click on “Central office, intergroup or answering service of U.S. and Canada” or click on “General Service offices, Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services Overseas”.

Delegate Sharing Session

The "Delegate Sharing Session" allows the Delegate to provide background information to GSR's and DCMC,s and DCM's, especially with regard to issues that GSRs need to collect group consciences on. It also provides an opportunity for the Delegate to hear feedback from GSRs, DCMs and DCMCs on issues that affect the General Service Conference and AA as a whole. It is a more interactive forum than the "Delegate's Report" portion of the ASC / Assembly Agenda. The Delegate also receives valuable feedback on a variety of items during the "sharing session" and has an opportunity to get to know those in attendance.

All GSRs, DCMs, DCMCs are especially encouraged to attend this session. All AAs are welcome to attend the session.

Also, please note that the February Delegate Sharing Session will begin discussion on various agenda items (for the upcoming General Service Conference) and what they mean to us.

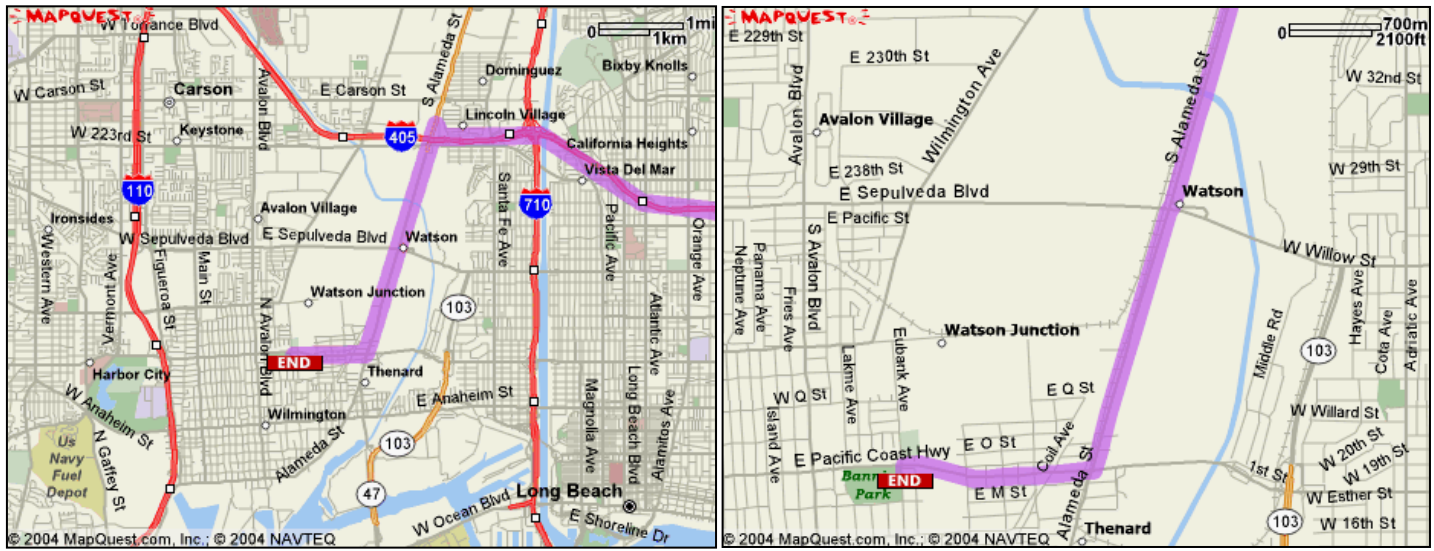
Current MSCA DCMCs

Thanks to all our hard-working DCMCs who do such a great job helping maintain the general service structure for the groups and their GSRs in each of our 23 MSCA Districts!

Dist.	DCMC	Dist.	DCMC	Dist.	DCMC
1	Jeff C	9	Ernesto M	19	Paul J
2	Kay F	10	Scott R	20	Rogelio S
3	Bob S	11	Patrick C	21	Bartolome T
4	Rich W	12	Valerie K	22	Jose R
5	Garry B	14	Art F	23	Francisco D
6	Doug S	15	Peyman H	24	Abraham C
7	Shane M	17	Scott C	30	Nancy S
8	Herb K	18	Sandi R		

Mar. 6 MSCA ASC,

(Host: District 3) 1371 N. Eubank Ave., Wilmington, at corner of PCH and Eubank in Banning Park



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

Tradition 2 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

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

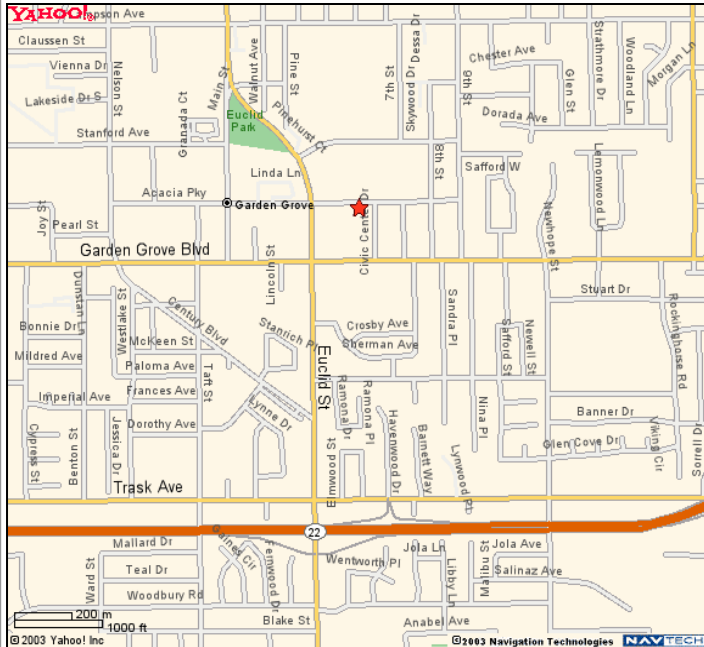
Announcement: The Other 12&12

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.

Feb 13 MSCA ASC, 11270 Acacia, Garden Grove

Directions: From Garden Grove (22) Freeway: Exit @ Euclid and go North. Turn Right on Acacia, & the Lodge will be on your right.



Purpose of an ASC

1. Identifying, defining, and discussing area, district and group concerns 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.

ASC Members

The ASC is made up of area officers, DCMC's, past delegates, alternate DCMC's, DCM's, other district officers, standing and coordinate committee chairs and cochairs.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 13 (Sunday): MSCA ASC (Host: District 20), 11270 Acacia, Garden Grove (map on page 4)

Mar. 6 (Sunday): MSCA ASC, (Host: District 3) 1371 N. Eubank Ave., Wilmington, at corner of PCH and Eubank in Banning Park

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

Apr. 3 (Sunday): Pre-Conference Workshop, Leahy Education Center, 44359 Palm Street, Indio

May 15 (Sunday): MSCA Assembly (Host: District 15), Ebell Club, 313 Laguna Road, Fullerton

June 12...ASC (Host: District 2)
 July 10...Foro (Host: Dist. 10 & 24)
 Aug. 14...ASC (Host: Dist. 11)
 Sept. 11...Assembly (Host: Dist. 12)
 Oct. 2...Heritage Day (Host: Dist. 19)
 Oct. 9...Election Assemb (Host: D 1)
 Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: Dist. 14)
 Nov. 13...ASC (Host: Dist. 5)
 Dec. 11...ASC (Host: Dist. 6)

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 Cochair, Spanish...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 Cochair, Spanish...vacant
Correctional Facilities Chair...Alex N	Literature Cochair, Spanish ...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

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

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

Registrar...Linda H
registrar@msca09aa.org

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

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

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