

# 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)

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

March 2005

## MSCA Website Helps AAs Find Meetings!

By Nancy R

Many AA General Service Areas in the U.S. have web sites. Many of them list meetings right on their websites. Many others link to their local central office websites to help folks find meetings. In our Area, it is the central offices that provide local meeting information to AAs (the MSCA does not do it). Our MSCA website has begun to list consenting local central offices (i.e. those who give us permission to list their addresses, phone numbers) and to link to their websites. 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.

So far, 6 of our Central Offices have given us permission to list them, and to link to their websites on our website. They include the central offices of Temecula Valley, Coachella Valley, North Orange County, Harbor Area, and All South Bay. These six all have on-line meeting directories. Now, when people come to [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org) looking for a meeting, they can find a description of these 6 central offices (including address and phone number), a list of the cities for which each provides on-line directories, and a link to their websites (and hence, to their on-line directories). This should be especially helpful to AAs searching for a meeting in an unfamiliar location, because it can be confusing to know which central office to contact. With the cities listed for each central office, a visitor can easily choose the central office that lists meetings in the city he/she is visiting.

## Area Public Information Committee

GREETINGS to all of Area 09! Public Information is alive and well. We have a new Spanish co-chair, he will be on the agenda to be voted in soon. I will be visiting Districts 14 and 17 for General Service events they are having, making presentations about P.I. Those of you in Hemet and Sun City please plan on attending! Our Committee meets at 10:15am so come and learn about how to carry our AA message to the public. We always laugh a lot and really get excited about our commitment to help people!

Christine Area 9 PI Chair

## Treatment Facilities Committee

By Patrick S

We had another good turnout at our meeting in February and were especially grateful to have our Alternate Delegate Carlos sit in with us this month. As usual we discussed what is happening with the Southern California H&I Intergroup, the upcoming Conference at the end of April, Bridging the Gap, District Representation and the possibility of hosting an Area Workshop in the Fall.

The annual H and I Conference is returning to the Doubletree Hotel in Orange (Apr. 29, 30 and May 1). Jim H was one of the founders of the Conference when he lived in the Long Beach area and he is scheduled to be one of the speakers. The Conference is put on by the H & I Intergroup; you can check out their web site at: [www.aahandi.org](http://www.aahandi.org). 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.

We have a strong core group; however, we would like to see some participation from the Spanish speaking community. Please come and participate in our Committee meetings immediately prior to all Area meetings at 10:15 AM. We are still in the early stages of growth and welcome your experience, strength and hope.

Devotedly Yours, Patrick S, MSCA TFC

## Area Grapevine / LaVina Committee

We met at the February Area 09 meeting in Garden Grove and had 10 in attendance. We had a great time discussing Grapevine and La Vina opportunities in your home groups. Please come, with or without your home group Grapevine Rep or bring someone to be one at our next meeting. We will meet at 10:15 a.m. during the next Area 09 meeting in Wilmington. Be sure to make the Pre-Conference Workshop in Indio in April. We'll be rolling by then for the May Area meeting [ anyone know where it is? ] See you or someone you bring there!!

In Warmest Love and Service,  
Melissa B., Area Grapevine Committee

## Pre-Pre Conference Workshop

District 5 will have their **pre-pre conference workshop** at their regular meeting, March 10, 6:30 p.m. GSRs are already gathering group consciences.



# PRAASA , My experience

By Mike M

In 2001 I was a GSR in District 1 and fairly new to General Service. Everyone was talking about this thing called PRAASA or as I later found out "Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly." I heard reports from District committee members about their PRAASA experience and thought it was a great thing....but not for me. It sounded like a lot of work going to all those panels and then to the workshops at night. My DCM for my subdistrict encouraged me to put my name in the hat but I really didn't want to because I knew I would get picked because that is my Higher Power's sense of humor. My name went into the hat and came out as one those chosen to go to Spokane. On the Friday morning of PRAASA I showed up at LAX to get on the plane and felt strangely at peace and lifted as if by angels. This feeling continued as I arrived in Seattle with others from my district and found our flight to Spokane canceled! As Pat our DCMC gathered us up to head us over to find out how we would get to Spokane, I knew everything it would be ok no matter what happened.

As we stood at the back of a line of those that were booked on the canceled Spokane flight, a very strange thing happened. All those people in front of us were taken to another plane, the 3 of us from district 1 waited. Suddenly we were directed out a door and past a row of planes to a small 2 engine turbo-prop and told to board. They closed the door and the plane took off .....with just the 3 of us aboard! We arrived at Spokane and Pat rented a car to take us to the hotel. There's nothing quite like the experience of driving around with your fellow alcoholics, we have a different slant on things. I had seen the love of Alcoholics Anonymous in the faces of

people at my District and at the Area, now I was introduced to many hundreds who "suited up" in service to their fellows. Those three days were an inspiration to me to go the extra mile. Inspiration contains the word "spirit" and I felt God's presence in every word I heard and every face I saw. I have made friendships with a lot of the people I met that weekend and once again glimpsed the great path we are all on. Humility and joy carried me as saw God do for me what I can't do for myself.

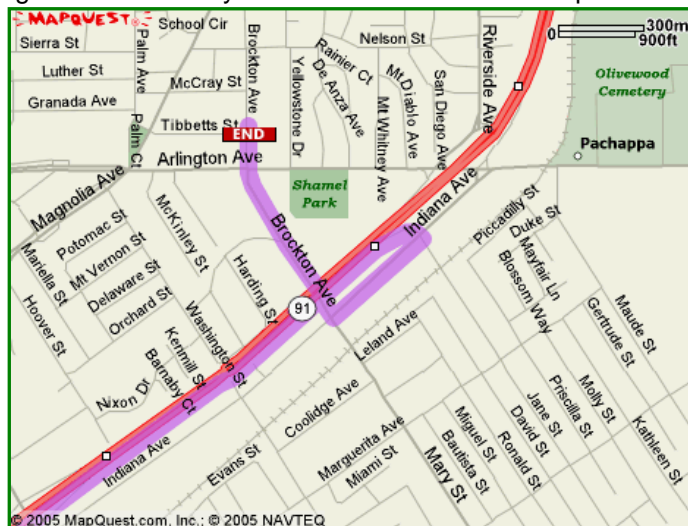
Today in hindsight I wouldn't have missed it for the world. It was 3 days of spiritual bliss, hard work, late nights, tearful moments and a forging of a stronger desire to carry the message in anyway I can. If there is any way you can get to PRAASA, do it because you will never regret it. I hope you will find the "in-spirit-ation" many have that helps us to trudge the road and welcome others as we carry the message. The responsibility pledge are not just words to me anymore. Words can not do justice to my PRAASA experience but I must try. I have not missed a PRAASA since and tried to expose as many as I could to "one of the fellowship's best kept secrets". My sponsor has often told me AA is like a submarine, you want to be in it rather than on it when it goes underwater. Little did I know how deep AA goes and what a joy it is to be in "a sea of alcoholics" like PRAASA. Because of our three legacies, recovery, unity and service, I am here and relatively sane. Because of PRAASA, I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for the hand of AA, I want the hand of AA to always be there and for that I am responsible. That's a lot for a man like me to say but I am not the first and I hope not the last. May God bless you and get you to Tucson!

Mike M

MSCA Archives Committee Presents: **MSCA Archives Open House** Sunday, Mar. 20, 2005, 10 am - 4 pm

**"Let it Begin With Me"** will be our theme with talks starting at 10 am. Main speaker will be Kathy J. from Rialto, 45 years in Alanon. She will talk about early Alanon & early AA in the Inland Empire & Southern California

See memorabilia such as: Temperance Movements – Washingtonians – Oxford Group – Co-founders – Calif. AA History – Early AA Pioneers – Early AA Books & Literature – Meet and talk with some of our Past Delegates to New York – Come learn something about AA History - Join us in Fun & Fellowship



## Archives' Role and Mission Video

The final version of the video presentation of the Archives' role and mission, designed for inclusion on the GSO AA website, was presented and approved by the General Service Board's Archives Committee and will be sent to the AAWS Services Committee for addition to the [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) website.

## MSCA website gets over 2300 visitors per month!

For the last 3 months, our [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org) website has gotten over 2300 visitors each month. The number of visitors keeps growing. And the number of pages that visitors look at keeps increasing. This is providing us with an ever-growing opportunity to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic, and provide him with information he needs to help attain and maintain sobriety.

### General Service & the Home Group

A District 17 event to help you get information on being of service (general service) in AA

Saturday, April 16, 2005, 10am – 2pm  
Sun City Civic Association, 26850 Sun City Blvd. (x Cherry Hills Blvd), Bldg. B, Sun City, CA  
Speakers from Area 9 and District 17  
(Pizza Lunch Provided)

- General Service & the General Service Representative
- "How It Works"
- Group Registration
- The Home Group
- Hospitals & Institutions
- Archives
- Public Information, &
- Cooperation With Professionals

## Foro Planning

The Foro is the only MSCA Area meeting held in Spanish and translated into English. It is held each July, and focuses on topics of General Service. The agenda typically consists of Speakers and Roundtable Topics. The 2005 Foro is co-hosted by District 24 and District 10.

If you would like to join the Foro Planning Committee, you are welcome. It meets the last Thursday of every month at 7pm at 330 N. State College, Suite 207, Anaheim, 92806. Currently it would like your suggestions for a theme and logo for this year's event.

### Concept 3 (long form)

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

### Tradition 3 (long form)

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

### April 3, 2005, MSCA Pre-Conference Workshop

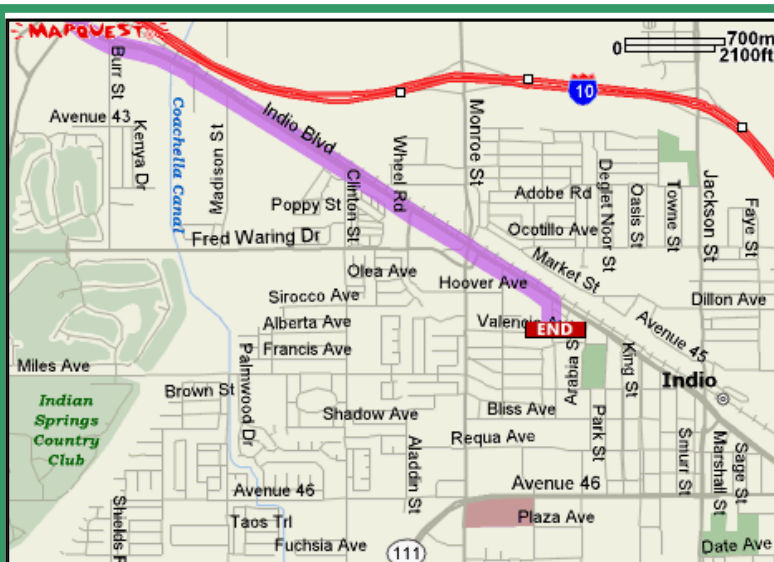
**"The Basics of Our Home Group – Recovery, Unity and Service"** is our 2005 General Service Conference Theme.

**"Do I Carry the AA Message, or My Own?"** is the Workshop Topic for the 2005 Conference.

The purpose of the Pre-Conference Workshop is to provide Area feedback to the Delegate regarding upcoming Conference issues. Our "Mid-Southern California Area Guidelines for Structure and Procedure" provides this guidance. The Pre-Conference Workshop accomplishes the task. In doing so, it helps the Delegate identify the Group's views on the discussion topics that will be reviewed at the General Service Conference this month.

Important activity for the Pre-Conference Workshop is accomplished before the day of the meeting. General Service Conference topics are reviewed by District G.S.R.'s and Groups are informed of the topics so they can develop their views and pass them on through their G.S.R.'s. The topics are discussed in depth at the Pre-Conference Workshop and the results are provided to the Delegate to carry to the annual General Service Conference.

Note that the Final Conference Agenda Items are posted on our [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org) website.

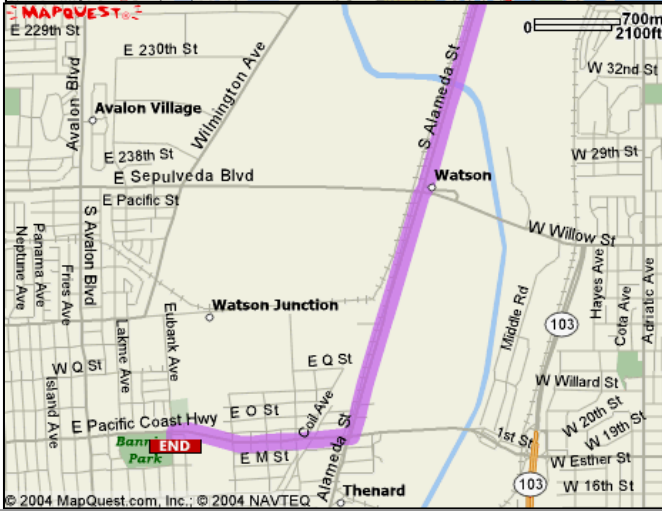
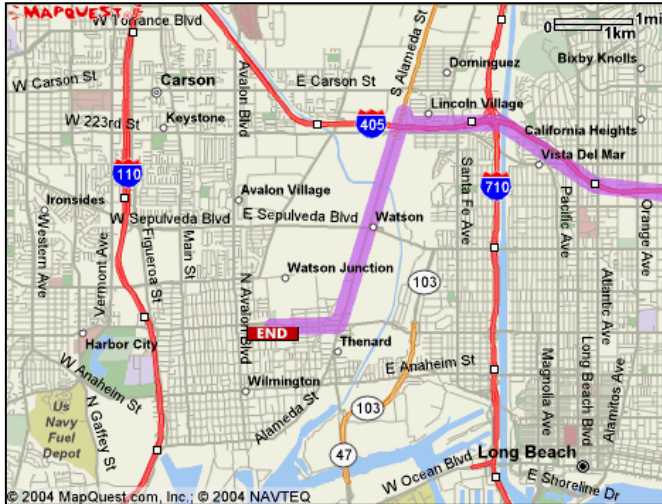


Hosted by District 9 at the Leahy Educational Center, 44359 Palm St. Indio, CA

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

## Mar. 6 (Sunday): MSCA ASC

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



The Report of the January 2005 General Service Board Meeting is now posted on the [msca09aa.org](http://msca09aa.org) website.

The Final Agenda items for the April, 2005 General Service Conference is now posted on the [msca09aa.org](http://msca09aa.org) website.

### Announcement:

(note, this announcement does not imply endorsement or approval of the MSCA. It is provided as information only).

### New meeting:

Name: Men in Recovery Speaker Meeting, closed for men only. 3rd Sunday of each month, Time: 5 pm to 7 pm. Garden Grove Alano Club, 9845 Belfast St. Contacts: Garden Grove Club (714)-534-2244 February Speaker is Bruce H from Torrance.

## Upcoming Events

**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

**Mar. 20 (Sunday) MSCA Archives Open House**, 10 am to 4 pm, 6922 Brockton Ave., Riverside, CA

**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 Assembly (Host: D 1)  
 Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: Dist. 14)  
 Nov. 13...ASC (Host: Dist. 5)  
 Dec. 11...ASC (Host: Dist. 6)

### \*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

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...
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...Ray S

### Area Officers (Panel 54)

Delegate: Nancy J, [delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegate@msca09aa.org)  
 Alt. Delegate: Carlos M, [altdelegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@msca09aa.org)  
 Secretary: Cesar F, [secretary@msca09aa.org](mailto:secretary@msca09aa.org)  
 Treasurer: Joe B, [treasurer@msca09aa.org](mailto:treasurer@msca09aa.org)  
 Registrar: Linda H, [registrar@msca09aa.org](mailto:registrar@msca09aa.org)  
 Chairperson: Bruce H, [chairperson@msca09aa.org](mailto:chairperson@msca09aa.org)

**“Our leaders are but trusted servants.  
 They do not govern.”**

from Tradition 2, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*



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

