



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

June 2005

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

Leadership , Our Choice

By Mike M

Tradition 9 states: " AA as such, ought never be organized: but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." The long form goes on to talk about rotating leadership and how they (our trusted servants) are to be guided in the spirit of service. "They derive no real authority from their titles: they do not govern." We have and have had so many humble and dedicated servants we take for granted that a lot of hard work is needed to "pull off" God's will sometimes. Bill talks about having the best and the brightest needed to serve the fellowship. He also talks about the "Good" being the enemy of the best. I love a lot of people in AA but not all of them are capable or suited to being "the best" servants for AA. I would hope that I would pick my trusted servants based on how they practice the principals rather than their personality. God qualifies the called but we have to give him something to work with! Lots of us show up and expect God to do the rest and that's great when you're cleaning ash trays or putting up chairs but it takes effort, dedication, knowledge, time, money and a certain amount of patience to do the tasks many of us are called to do in service.

We as an Area need officers who can lead by example and have a vision of what we can accomplish together as an Area united and not divided. The ability to listen and carry the message along with a gigantic heart to contain "the language of the heart" is needed. It is great to see all my friends at the Area, but that is not why I am there. It is to do what I have been selected to do in the spirit of the traditions and all those who have gone before me. I have learned we are all equal in AA, alcohol saw to that, but we have different gifts which we bring to service and it is our duty to pick the best for our Area and AA as a whole. We have a great many "best" people we can pick for Area Officers and a lot more "good" people that we all love and cherish. I can give numerous examples of "best" trusted servants that have what I want, like Al P., Goldene, Charles, Jim and Linda C. and many more. Do I agree with everything they say and do? No, but I often learn a lot from their wisdom and they inspire me.

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MSCA ARCHIVES

by Pete B

What was started in April 1983, is located at 6922 Brockton Avenue in Riverside, and may be one of the best kept secrets in the Mid-Southern California Area? The answers to these questions are your Area Archives Committee, the MSCA Archives Repository, and the Archives Standing Committee.

The MSCA Archives had its beginnings in 1979 when, the then Panel 28 Delegate, Goldene L., was asked to make a presentation on archives at the 29th General Service Conference. It was suggested that Goldene speak with Dave H. at the LA Central Office to talk about archives in Southern California. Members of the MSCA became involved in the Southern California Archives at this time and began to attend their meetings.

In late 1982, the MSCA Panel 32 Delegate, Diane G, felt the Mid-Southern California Area should have their own Archives and separate from the Southern California Archives Committee. The Area agreed and the first meeting of the Mid-Southern California Archives was held on April 17, 1983 at Flossie L's apartment complex. This first meeting was attended by Denver C, Ellery S, Sally K, Flossie L, Goldene L, and Gene S. The Area's first Archivist was Sally K. Shortly after the first meeting the collection of archival material began. A cabinet was purchased to store some of the material at Flossie L's apartment; the rest was kept at Sally's house – the original "under the bed storage."

Around 1984 the Orange County Central Office offered their loft as a storage facility and some of the material was stored there. It was still inaccessible to the AA members, but it did get it out from under the bed.

In 1988, the first Heritage Day took place in Riverside and was a huge success. Participants were AA members who had been involved in some sort of AA service and had over 30 years of sobriety.

The Inland Empire Central Office, which was located at 1263 N. Mt. Vernon Ave. in Colton, had an opportunity to move into the building next door. In

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PI Committee helps Police and Corrections Team

by Christine S

Hello to everybody in Area 9! I completed my 8th Big Book workshop last night. Yea! Because I'm trying to live up to the principles set forth in our Book, I'm starting to really live, not just exist!

Those of you who stayed on at the delegate's report back heard me announce that the California Dept. of Corrections had given AA a certificate of appreciation for our outreach, as a service provider, to recently released parolees. It is truly helping me to help others; the sick, the suffering, the lost ones that society has rejected. I came to this commitment through my membership in the North Orange County Public Information Committee (NOCPIC). We get asked to carry the message to the public, including schools and health fairs at schools. We have a speaker workshop annually to qualify AAs to speak at non-AA events.

I started working with the PACT (Police and Corrections Team) last November. I inform approximately 50-75 recently released parolees about AA three times a month. It must be so scary to get out of prison and have to face life. I can only imagine. As P.I. Committee Chair for Area 9, I get to teach AAs how to do P.I. work. At one meeting at an Area assembly, I was standing there teaching a bunch of our Spanish-speaking members with the help of translating by Alfredo and Damien. I suddenly was crying, I was so humbled and so moved by these peoples' desire to help others! I shared my feelings with the group and we all felt that common bond, that need to help save those that are out there in peril of their very lives! If you haven't guessed, I get quite emotional about P.I. work.

I came to General Service as a GSR. But that wasn't the first I'd heard the term "GSR". Years ago my mother, Lucetta D, was an AA member involved in service. She was Delegate for Area 5. I used to visit her in San Gabriel and she would ask me to help her make "GSR packets". She would get the addresses of potential GSRs and send them pamphlets and such. My mom helped the Spanish speaking get their own districts. My mom loved AA service and I was eye witness to the transformation that recovery in AA can bring to a human being. My mom got Alzheimer's Disease when she was only 60. I can only wonder how much impact she could have continued to make on AA. She sure made an impact on me! I have picked up the torch of service from her and I will continue with my legacy, to carry this message to alcoholics. I have committed to carry it to the public as well.

Christine S, Area 9 Public Information Chair

MSCA Archives... *continued from page 1, col. 2*

February 1991, the Central Office moved, and the Area agreed to rent the old Central Office building for our repository. In March 1991, the committee moved into its first repository. At that time, Goldene L. was asked to be the Archivist. When the committee moved into this facility, it was only one of three Archives repositories in the US. The other two were the AA Archives in New York and the Archives at the Los Angeles Central office. However, it was and still is very difficult to see the material in the Los Angeles Central office repository.

When Goldene L moved to Texas, Darryl H was elected Area Archivist. However, because of illness, an assistant Archivist position was created, and Charles K. was asked to assume that position. When Darryl stepped down because of his illness, Charles K. became Archivist, and is currently serving in that position.

In February 2002, the Archives lost their lease to the Colton building and had to box up all the valuable material and put it into a safe storage facility. Later that year, the Archives found a new building in Riverside, which is now the current home of the Mid-Southern California Archives Repository.

In September 2002, the Mid-Southern California co-hosted the 7th Annual National Archives Workshop at the San Bernardino Hilton. Archivists from all over the country gathered to share their experience in the different methods of conservation and preservation of historical AA material. As a result of visitations to the MSCA Repository many Areas throughout the US are now starting their own repositories.

What do we do at the MSCA Archives? It is one thing to collect, but we also have to maintain and preserve the material, do research, publish the results of that research, and lastly, exhibit some of the material.

In addition, the Archives Committee is involved in gathering group histories, an activity in which you can help. The Committee is gathering group histories with the goal of publishing the results. You may find a Group History form on the Archives webpage associated with the Area's webpage. We are also taping old-timers. So, if you know of any old timers, please get them on tape. We will be glad to supply you with a set of questions that will help you in your taping.

We have recently formed a collections committee to help organize our collections. The committee is currently developing procedures and a database. When these are completed, we will need your assistance in cataloging the collection.

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Web Servants Collaborating in Pacific Region

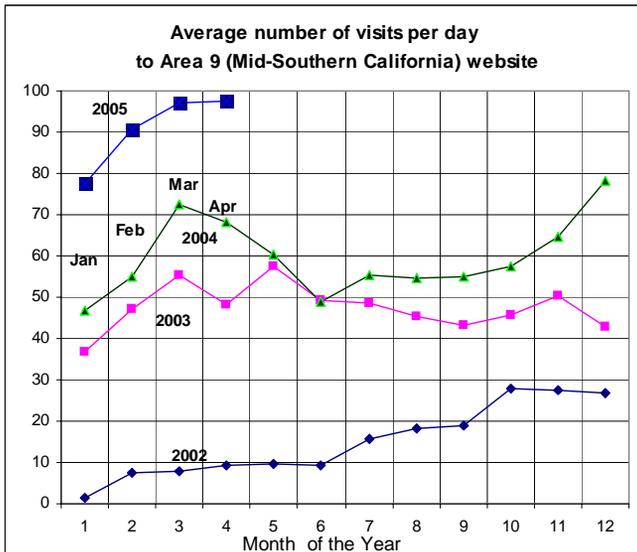
By Nancy R

The area web servants in the Pacific Region have created an ongoing Pacific Region Web Servant Forum. We think of it as being in the same spirit as the PRAASA, only on a much smaller scale and just for web servants to share information, ideas, suggestions, experience, strength and hope. We're using an online forum to avoid costs of travel, paper, repro, postage, etc.

Many people visit our website

Our MSCA Website had 2923 visits in April. That is nearly 100 visitors per day. In other words, we have nearly 100 chances a day to carry the message via our website. Our website committee (aka "The Electronic Media Sub-Committee") works continuously to improve the usefulness of our website. We receive numerous suggestions from our viewers, and we have ongoing electronic discussions on these suggestions all during the days and weeks in between the face-to-face meetings at ASCs and Assemblies. We carefully consider each suggestion as to its usefulness and its consistency with our cherished traditions and concepts.

As you can see from the chart below, the number of visitors who view our website increases each year. March is the most popular month, when GSRs and others are gathering information on the General Service Conference Agenda items.



This website services the needs of all the MSCA committees and districts, as well as addressing the needs of all alcoholics in our area (whether visiting the area or residing here). It also serves to aid the general public in our area to better understand what AA is, what it is not, and how they can get more information about AA.

Leadership , Our Choice(continued from page 1

In "Leadership in AA: Ever a vital need" Bill talks a lot about leadership, what it is and what it isn't. "A leader in AA service is therefore a man (or a woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and exercises no judgment of his own --- well, he really isn't a leader at all". Concept IX talks about insuring good leadership at all levels of AA. "As the GSR's meet in their Assemblies to name Delegates, an even greater degree of care and dedication will be required. Personal ambitions will have to be cast aside, feuds and controversy forgotten,' Who are the best qualified people we can name?' This should be the thought of all".

We as members of the Area have the right to decide who will become an Area officer. Great leadership is an attraction and a necessity for growth. In the service manual it says the basis for General Service is the GSR so how do we attract them? We all love AA but are we willing to pick the "best" rather than our good friends to serve us and lead us? Would you be comfortable having this person you are choosing as your sponsor? Doing your taxes? Enforcing the traditions? Spending your money? I hope I would, else how could they be "trusted" servants. It should always be about carrying the message, no matter what we are doing, from Delegate to coffee maker. Einstein said the only way to truly lead is by example, What example have those we choose set? This year we will choose from those willing to serve and may the "best" win.

In Love and Service, Mike M

"How to Find a Meeting" a Grand Success

By Nancy R

This year, the MSCA Assembly voted to add a page to the MSCA website entitled "How to find an AA Meeting." This page helps direct people to the appropriate central office for the locale in which they are hunting for a meeting. It lists the addresses, phone numbers and website addresses for all central offices in the MSCA who gave their permission to us to list them. It also links to the website (and, hence, to the lists of AA meetings they post) of each central office who gave us permission to link to them. This has turned out to be, by far, the most often visited page on our website. It is visited more than five times as often as the 2nd-most-visited page on our website. I am inferring from this that our visitors are finding the page extremely useful, and that by adding it, we have greatly improved our service to AA (our primary purpose).

In addition, many of the central offices we list have sent the MSCA webservant a note thanking us for listing them.

Website help needed in Spanish

The MSCA Website Committee (aka Electronic Media Subcommittee) is in dire need of help with the Spanish portion of our website. We need help in translating into Spanish. We also need help calling the Spanish-speaking Central Offices to ask for permission to list them on our website for Spanish-speaking alcoholics who come to our website looking for a way to contact local AA. If you can help, please contact webservant@msca09aa.org. Thank you!

“Advisory Actions” and “Additional Committee Considerations” on Website

The 2005 General Service Conference “Advisory Actions” and “Additional Committee Considerations” can now be viewed, both in Spanish and in English, on the MSCA website, www.msca09aa.org

MSCA Archives.....continued from p. 2, col. 2

The committee is also asking that each District elect an Archivist who would be responsible for collecting the District's history. Members of the Archives Committee will be glad to assist your Archivist in their endeavors.

The Archives repository is open every Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm and by special arrangements. If you would like to visit the repository during “off hours” contact us via e-mail at archives@msca09aa.org or by phone at 714-606-8792. If your District or group would like an archives presentation, please contact us by e-mail or phone.

The archives committee meets the second Saturday of every odd month from 11 am until 1 pm at the Repository. All are welcomed to attend. We also meet in the morning before each Area meeting.

Trivia (Or A Little Bit of History)

These questions and many more may be answered by visiting the MSCA Archives Repository at 6922 Brockton Avenue, Riverside. You may also find the answers in the August Area Newsletter.

When was Area 09 formed by Conference Advisory Action?

Who was Area 09's first Delegate? How long did they serve?

What was Area 09's original name?

How many districts were there when the Area was first formed?

Who was the host Area for the 1960 International Convention?

*Love in service,
Pete B, Archives Standing Committee Chair*

Motions Passed at MSCA May 15 Assembly

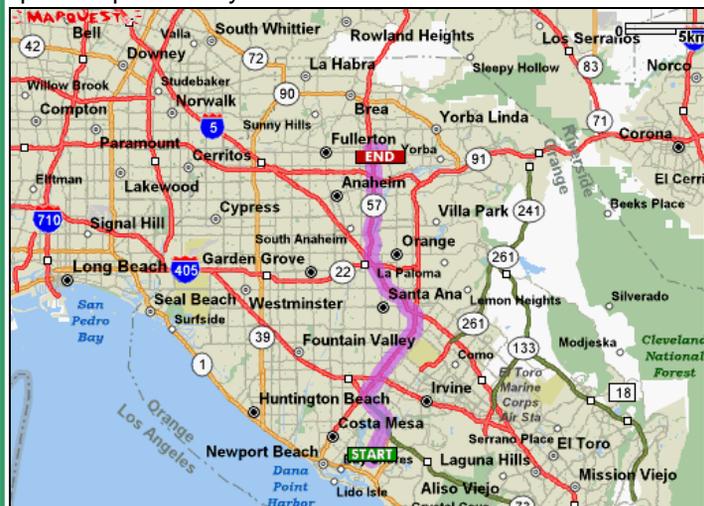
The MSCA Assembly passed the following motions:

1. To make “Cooperation with Elder Community Committee” a standing committee
2. To post (on the MSCA website, on the DCM School Committee's page) the DCM Visitation Kit
3. To confirm the new PI Spanish Cochair, Luciano P (congratulations, Luciano!)
4. To post (on the MSCA website, on the Registrar's page) directions on how to register a new group or a new GSR in Area 9
5. To approve the Area Archives Committee Guidelines Revision
6. To approve the MSCA Foro Guidelines Revision

Thanks to all of our GSRs who shared their experience, strength, hope and ideas with us at the Assembly, to help us at Area 9 to best serve the still suffering alcoholic.

July 10 (Sunday): Foro de MSCA (Host: Dist. 10 & 24), Backs Community Building, 201 N. Bradford Ave. Placentia, CA 92810

The Foro de MSCA is a special event which is conducted primarily in Spanish. Non-Spanish-speaking attendees listen to English translations on headphones whenever the speaker is speaking in Spanish. Foro planners select a wide variety of interesting General Service topics for members to discuss. Then discussion groups review and report on their assigned topics. This year's Foro starts at 8:45 am (registration will start at 8 am) and ends at 3:45 pm. Hope to see you all there!

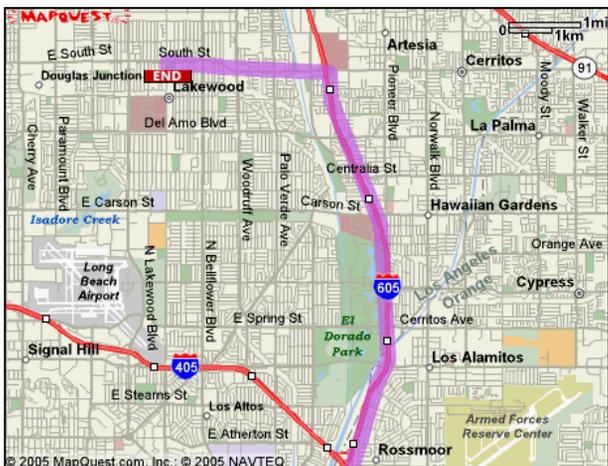


Directions from the 91 Freeway: Head North onto CA-57. Take the Chapman Ave exit (EXIT 6B) toward Fullerton (0.2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto E CHAPMAN AVE (0.5 mi.). Turn LEFT onto N BRADFORD AVE. (0.1 mi).

June 12, 2005, MSCA ASC Meeting*, at the Community Center at Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712



Directions from the East: Take I-10 W toward Los Angeles. Merge onto CA-60 W via the exit on the left toward Riverside...23 miles. Merge onto CA-91 W toward Riverside/Beach Cities...49.8 mi. Take the Bellflower Blvd exit toward Bellflower...0.1 mi. Turn left onto Bellflower Blvd...1.1 mi. Turn right onto South St...0.5 mi. Turn left onto Clark Ave....<0.1 mile.



Directions from the South:

Take I-405 N toward Long Beach. Merge onto I-605 N. 5.4 mi. Take the South St exit...0.2 miles. Turn Left onto South St...2.2 mi. Turn left onto Clark Ave... 0.1 mi.

Note: GSRs do not vote at MSCASC Meetings, but are encouraged to participate in discussions.



Panel 54 Area Officers

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

Upcoming Events

June 12 (Sunday): ASC (Area Service Committee) Meeting*. (Host: District 2) Community Center at Mayfair Park, 5720 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90712

July 10 (Sunday): Foro (Host: Dist. 10 & 24) Backs Community Building, 201 N. Bradford Ave. Placentia, CA 92810

- Aug. 14...ASC (Area Service Committee) Meeting* (Host: Dist. 11), Alder Middle School, 7555 Alder St., Fontana, CA 92336
- Sept. 11...Assembly (Host: Dist. 12), 24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA 92653 (Leisure World Clubhouse Two)
- Oct. 2...Heritage Day (Host: TBD)
- Oct. 9...Election Assembly (Host: D 1), 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA (South Coast Botanic Garden)
- Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: Dist. 14)
- Nov. 13...ASC (Host: Dist. 5)
- Dec. 11...ASC (Host: Dist. 6)
- March, 2006... PRAASA, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

*Note: GSRs vote at MSCA Assemblies, but not at ASC meetings.

Concept 6 (long form)

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Tradition 6 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

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, et al.

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

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