

MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 2

September 2022

msca09aa.org

MSCA - 09

P.O. Box 51446

Irvine, CA 92619-1446

WELCOME TO MSCA 09



Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

Upcoming Events 2022

Sept 11.....[MSCA Area Service Committee Meeting \(ASC\)](#)

Sept 15.....[MSCA Area 09 Service Workshop](#)

Oct 9.....[MSCA Area Service Committee Meeting \(ASC\)](#)

Oct 20.....[MSCA Area 09 Service Workshop](#)

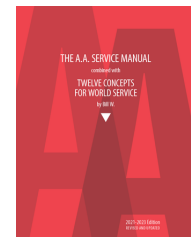
Nov 12.....[Area 09 Servathon](#)

[View Full Calendar](#)

September Hosting District

District 25

AA Service Manual



MSCA Area Map



[MSCA website](#)



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Your Panel 72 Officers

- [Delegate](#)
- [Alternate Delegate](#)
- [Chairperson](#)
- [Registrar](#)
- [Secretary](#)
- [Treasurer A/R](#)
- [Treasurer A/P](#)

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Contact the editor (Ed L) at editor@msca09aa.org

MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Monthly SPOTLIGHT on OUR MSCA Trusted Servants

Jerry S - District 8/11 District Committee Member Chair

"By the time I was 19 years old, I was a periodic drinker, with a Drunk in Public on my record. In the summer of 1966, I joined the El Cariso Hotshots, with the U.S. Forest Service. On November 1, 1966 our crew was trapped in the Loop Fire - twelve men died. During the fire I suffered 30%, 3rd degree burns, the worst to the hands, arms, legs and face. Then had my right little finger amputated. I was in the hospital for over a month initially before being sent home. I had so many follow-up surgeries I lost count.

"At that time PTSD was not a diagnosis - there were years of nightmares in which I ran away from fire - you were expected to man up and get over it, and the only thing that helped was hitting the Oblivion Switch - heart beating, barely breathing, sinking into a bottomless depression, which I treated with booze and drugs. It put all that fire stuff below the surface, and quieted my brain. It helped manage that Hellhound for almost 20 years - until it didn't.

"Despite the daily drinking and drugging, I ended up playing professionally, with the likes of Bo Diddly, Little Richard, Big Joe Turner, and Big Mama Thornton, among others. That went on till 1986 when it all unraveled. I didn't know how to do relationships, and had children with three different women. I was a failure in every area of my life - the only thing I had going for me was the "Gift of Desperation." I got clean and sober April 9, 1986 with my soulmate Sharon - we continue to trudge the "Road of Happy Destiny" to this day! I took direction from my sponsor and went back to school and obtained a degree as a Registered Nurse and I worked the next thirty four years as a rehab nurse working with catastrophic injuries. My nightmares had turned into my life's biggest asset, as I learned to give it away. My biggest disability turned out to be between my ears!

"I retired in 2019 - right before the pandemic, and Sharon and I decided to see how we could be of service in our Area. What really piqued our interest was: Why was our home District 11 "dark?" My sponsor directed me to an Area 9 board meeting where I met my service sponsor, Ed L. and was directed to get involved with our sister District 8. In the meantime we got involved in the Area and went to our first PRAASA (in person) in Tucson and were "hooked."

"Shortly after, I had an opportunity to be involved and serve as chair of the Cooperation with the Elder Community (CEC) standing committee, where Sharon was already the secretary. By then we were in lock down because of Covid, and I was rocketed into a new virtual world of recovery via Zoom. I quickly came to see the "Elephant in the Room" - members who because of mobility issues, economic issues, and/or living in remote areas were unable to attend meetings - even before the pandemic. I was blessed to meet one of the founders of Area 09's CEC committee, Michael M., and to work with a core of dedicated servants. We accomplished a lot. Besides modernizing our Guidelines, our committee focused on reaching out "the hand of A.A." to our elders, with our "new" virtual tools, and distributing mailings to senior centers.

"In November of 2021 District 8 held elections, where nobody put their name in the hat for the DCMC. They did a roll call, and when they called my name, I could not refuse an A.A. request, and reluctantly accepted the position, where I continue to focus on being of service during Panel 72, and grateful for the opportunity!"

[MSCA website](#)



Did You Know...

Area 09 has played an important role in A.A.'s Literature? In 2019 as part of the 69th Conference, Area 09 delegate, Jesus O, introduced a Floor Action that will result in the creation of the 4th Edition of the Big Book in Spanish.

During the 2020 and 2021 Conferences, Ed L, Area 09 delegate, served on the Conference Literature Committee and was one of nine delegates who decided to introduce the 4th Edition of the Spanish Big Book, the 5th Edition of the English Big Book, and the brand new Plain Language Big Book to the floor of the Conference where all three Agenda Items were elevated to Advisory Actions. It was also Ed's honor to develop the following wording, which now appears on page 66 in the Step 6 essay in the 12 and 12: "No one wants to commit the deadly sins of anger, lust, or gluttony."

[Get your story in the 5th Edition of the English Big Book](#) Deadline: Oct 31, 2022

[Get your story in the 4th Edition of the Spanish Big Book](#) Deadline: Dec 31, 2022

[Vera F's Power Point on writing your Big Book stories](#)

New 2022 Membership Survey

During the most recent Area Service Committee (ASC) meeting on August 14, 2022, our current delegate, Mitchell B, shared that he has received a short-list of local groups that the General Service Office (GSO) would like to poll as being part of the latest A.A. Membership Survey. The last such survey was in 2014, so this is exciting news to see how the the Fellowship has grown (or shrunk) in the last eight years, including during the pandemic.

There is no opportunity to volunteer for this survey, but if Mitchell reaches out to your group, likely through your current General Service Representative (GSR), we encourage you to participate so that Area 09 can be represented in this important survey.

This is another example of how important GSRs are to the function of A.A. As my service sponsor, Ron E once said, "If your group does not have a GSR, it is a remote community!"

Submit an Agenda Item for Conference Consideration

During the 71st Conference, the deadline for submitting Agenda Items was changed from December to September 15 of each year. Any member of A.A. may submit an agenda item, although it is suggested that group consciences be obtained at the Group, District, and/or Area level(s) to ensure your item is well thought out, has not already been submitted and dismissed (sometimes multiple times), and to follow the culture of A.A.'s "we program." The link below will tell you all you need to know about submitting an Agenda Item.

[Agenda Items Submission Date](#)

Area 09 Newsletter Resurrected!

As made available by Mitchell B (past Archivist) at this link ([Access MSCA 09 Archives](#)), our first English Newsletter was in November 1976 and our first Spanish Newsletter was in November 1982 (although it was still written in Spanish). These two Newsletters are available at the following links:

[MSCA 09 English Newsletter, November 1976](#)

[MSCA 09 Spanish Newsletter, November 1982](#)

Past MSCA 09 Newsletters are available at this link: [MSCA 09 newsletters](#)

This is YOUR Newsletter, and we sincerely want to populate it with your thoughts, editorials, images, and shared memories. So please reach out to the current editor (Ed L) and share your materials at editor@msca09aa.org.

According to the Communications Committee Guidelines, these are the types of things we are looking for:

1. Local AA news and information about groups and committees;
2. Reprinted material from AA literature;
3. Sharing of experience in recovery, unity, and service;
4. Information pertaining to Area actions, finances, and meetings;
5. Information regarding AA service, events, and announcements (In keeping with A.A.'s Tradition of non-affiliation, no events exclusively planned as fundraising events will be listed in the Newsletter)