

MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 7

March 2023

msca09aa.org

MSCA - 09

P.O. Box 51446

Irvine, CA 92619-1446



Welcome To Conference Season!

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 2023

[March 3, 4, 5 - PRAASA](#)

[March 12 - Area Service Committee](#)

[March 25 - Preconference Bootcamp](#)

[April 15 - Mock Conference Workshop](#)

[View 2023 Calendar](#)

March Hosting District

District 7

AA Service Manual



MSCA Area Map



42 = Part of Nevada

[MSCA website](#)



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Mid Southern California Area 9 Pre-Conference Bootcamp. Pre-What??

My name is Jay, and I'm an alcoholic. I serve as the District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) for District 18, which represents A.A. Groups and meetings in Costa Mesa and Irvine.

Conference Season is upon us. "What on Earth," the new GSRs may be asking, "does that mean? I'm still trying to figure out the differences between GSR, DCM, DCMC, ASC, ASA, and GSO!"

Alcoholics Anonymous holds annual meetings with Delegates (now numbering 93, from the U.S. and Canada) and the Trustees who comprise A.A.'s General Service Board. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss and vote on Conference "[agenda items](#)." These agenda items start out as ideas from A.A. members or Groups – ideas on how A.A. as a whole can fulfill its primary purpose of reaching the still suffering alcoholic.

If an idea has the support (by way of group conscience) of a Group, that Group's General Service Representative (GSR) can present it, via a motion, to the District or to the Area for consideration. If supported at the Area level, the newly passed motion can be submitted by the Area Delegate to the General Service Board for consideration as a Conference agenda item.

Conference agenda items that are successfully passed at an annual General Service Conference are called "Advisory Actions." Advisory actions are basically the "instructions" from our "Conference" to the General Service Board to take action to fulfill the wishes of the entire A.A. membership of the U.S. and Canada. For instance, if A.A. as a whole decides we need to produce a new pamphlet, and the General Service Conference votes to approve this, it becomes an advisory action, then the General Service Board will instruct our experts at the General Service Office to begin the process of creating the new pamphlet.

Unlike the above example, the amount of agenda items presented each year has been approaching 200, and the background information supporting these items is well over 1,000 pages – way too much information for most of us to conquer, let alone understand.

GSRs may be asking, "How can I possibly get all of this information to my Group, and how can the Groups' members possibly make an informed decision about all the agenda items?"

The short answer is, "You can't." However, there is help!

Each March, several local Districts join forces to put on a "[Pre-conference Bootcamp](#)" program. Prior to the Bootcamp, GSRs from participating Districts will research approximately twelve Conference agenda items. At the Bootcamp, the GSRs will then present their agenda item information to the audience, so that they can be better informed.

The Bootcamp is open to all A.A. members. The Bootcamp is one way that we A.A.s can reach an informed decision so that we can let our GSR and Delegate know how we feel about certain agenda items. And the more input our Delegate receives from those he/she represents, the better informed he/she will be regarding how to cast his/her vote at the General Service Conference.

The 2023 Pre-conference Bootcamp will be held on Saturday, March 25th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Walton Intermediate School, 12181 Buaro Street, Garden Grove. Flyers will be out in the near future.

Come join us, and get informed!

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**EXERCISE YOUR CONFERENCE SEASON MUSCLES
at the PRE-CONFERENCE BOOTCAMP!!**

Saturday, March 25th, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Learn about important General Service Conference agenda items
so that you can lead your Groups to an informed group
conscience!

Refreshments *** Fun *** Service *** Fellowship

In person: Walton Intermediate School
12181 Buaro Street, Garden Grove

Zoom: Meeting ID 833 8984 7473
Passcode: service

What is "**Background Information**," why is it Confidential, and how can I access it? In mid-February, the General Service Office releases more than a 1,000 pages of supplementary information supporting Final Agenda Items. It includes previous discussions, the letters promoting new ideas behind the Agenda Items, and everything else that is known about a particular proposal. It is Confidential because full names are revealed in the Background Information. Posted on 2/18/2023, you access this privileged information at msca09aa.org, under the Delegate's tab, under the "Confidential Resources" subtab. The information is password protected, so contact [Mitchell](#), [Alex](#), or [Rich](#) for the password.



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In How Many Home Groups Can I Feel At Home? by Lori L

My name is Lori. My sobriety date is May 20, 1991, and my home group is the Women's Drive Thru. Recently, I have been reflecting on the intention of a Home Group and how I absolutely love mine. I have so much gratitude for the women in my Group and what they have shown me. I actually have so much gratitude for all of my previous Home Groups in the areas I have been fortunate to live and grow as a gift of this program. I remember when I was early in sobriety and looking up at the walls and seeing signs that said, "Keep Coming," "More Meetings, More Chances" and hearing people say things like, "it's good to have commitments, to be of service to others, to never say no to an AA request."

The early feelings of relief, sitting in my chair, hearing people that I finally could somewhat identify with. The eagerness, the willingness, I was told to chase my sobriety like I chased the drink. And so, I did what I believed anyone would do - I joined 5 meetings, got 5 different commitments, attended and participated in all the business meetings, and stayed in the middle of the pack. I thought I considered myself to be the "best" A.A. member around. This saved my life, and I have no regrets. But Guess what - Boy, have I been humbled.

Since then, I have continued to be teachable. I have developed an eagerness and willingness to take on and learn about all the Spiritual Principles of the program, which includes The 3 Legacies of my recovery - The Steps, A.A. Unity - The Traditions and even General Service - The Concepts. I have learned about our Service Manual, various A.A. pamphlets and other A.A. Conference Approved literature. In these pieces of literature, it talks about One Member, One Group, One Vote. For instance, on Page 7 of the Service Manual it states, "While many AA members attend other groups as well, the home group is where they participate in business meetings and cast their vote as part of the group conscience of the Fellowship as a whole. As with all group conscience matters, each member has one vote." It is referenced again on page 15 in the Home Group Pamphlet where it states, "Traditionally, most A.A. members through the years have found it important to belong to one group that they call their 'home group.'" This is THE group where they accept service responsibilities... "each A.A. member has one vote and this, ideally, is voiced through the home group."

Being a member of a Home group has been invaluable for me. It is where I first learned to "take responsibility." In each of my moves, I would find a Group where I would show up early to set up and stay late to clean up. It is by doing this that I was able to find a Group where I felt at Home. It was in my Home Group that people valued my recovery more than my feelings and said things like, "Doing the right thing isn't going to feel good for someone like you who is not used to doing the right thing."

So, on this journey like many others I had a spiritual awakening and in learning about One Member, One Group, One Vote I spoke to my Service Sponsor about the idea of having multiple Home Groups. She jokingly told me that I can have 20 Home Groups and commitments in all of them if I think I'm that important. She reminded me that there are no rules in A.A., and there are no A.A. Police, but that we do have spiritual principles, and that either I will try to align myself with them or I won't. I am so grateful for the people that keep me humble, and I pray to always remain teachable.



COMMITTEE PAGE LINKS



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



What Makes This the 73rd General Service Conference?

Well, first, the General Service Conference (GSC) is both a happening and a body of Trusted Servants. Due to Covid, the 70th GSC occurred in May 2020, but typically, it occurs for a week in late April each year. And, to answer the title question: 2023 will be the 73rd time the GSC has met, always in New York, except for 2020 and 2021, when it was virtual. As a body, the GSC is a group of 135 Trusted Servants comprised of 21 Trustees (14 Class B - Boozers and 7 Class A - Non-boozers), 93 Delegates (Mitchell B is our current delegate), 6 Nontrustee Directors, and [15 A.A. staff at the General Service Office](#) (A.A. World Services and Grapevine/La Vina). As Jay mentioned above, their responsibility is to identify final Agenda Items for each GSC, which become [Advisory Actions](#) if approved by the Conference (= "Conference Approved"). Other Agenda Items may fail for lack of unanimity (2/3 of the GSC members voting yes = unanimity), may be retained as needing "Additional Committee Considerations," or may be labeled as "Took No Action," which means that the Agenda Item was not even brought to the floor to be discussed. At any time during the GSC, in between deliberations, a GSC member may introduce a Floor Action. Two recent noteworthy Floor Actions include Jesus O's Floor Action to develop the 4th Edition of Alcohólicos Anónimos in Spanish during the 69th GSC in 2019 and three Floor Actions in 2021 that resulted in changing the Grapevine's 1947 Preamble from, "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of **men** and **women**..." to "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of **people**...", which achieved a slim unanimity when 88 of the 132 GSC members voted "yes" in 2021. Finally, the main link in communication between our Delegate and your groups is the GSR, or General Service Representative. If your group does not have a GSR, your group is a remote community, a voiceless entity disconnected from the GSO - General Service Office in New York.



2023 Committee Sharing Sessions



The schedule for the 2023 Committee Sharing Sessions is now available (below). Among the presenters are current and past trustees, delegates, alternate delegates, and other General Servants. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! See: [Committee Sharing Schedule](#)



JANUARY 19 7:00PM PST	FEBRUARY 16 7:00PM PST	MARCH 16 7:00PM PST	APRIL 20 7:00PM PST	FEATURING THE 12 CONCEPTS & VARIOUS TOPICS
CONCEPT 1 DOUG DELEGATE CONCEPT 2 JIMMY W ALT DEL CONCEPT 3 COREY D ALT DEL KENTUCKY	CONCEPT 4 PATRICK C AA STAFF CONCEPT 5 - TROY D AA STAFF CONCEPT 6 VERA F TRUSTEE	CONCEPT 7 RICK W TEXAS DELE CONCEPT 8 JOEL PAST TRUSTEE CONCEPT 9 CAROLYN TRUSTEE CANADA	CONCEPT 10 KATHY F PAST TRUSTEE CONCEPT 11 MONICAH CHICAGOLAND PAST DELEGATE CONCEPT 12 JENNIFER D NC PAST DELEGATE	
May 18th - What is the conference actually like ? Hear from our Southern California Panel 72 Delegates. Mitchell Area 09 Delegate & Monty Area 8 Delegate June 15th - The How, Why and Joy of a Class A trustee life - Michelle G Class A Trustee July 20th - How to reach anyone anywhere - Bron Panel 73 Area 15 Secretary August 17th - A.A Around the world - Class B Trustees at large US and Canada (Trish & Maritta) September 21st - Servant? Leader? or both? - Debbie D AA Member October 19th - Service Sponsorship - Jimmy D Past Trustee November 16th - Participation - How to get groups involved and keep them engaged - Craig and Matt K Past Delegates from CT December - No Meeting enjoy the Holidays we'll see you in Panel 74 :)				

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Spanish Translation is available	7:00 PST
Hosted By	8:00 MTN
MSCA 09 Alt Delegate & Delegate	9:00 CST
Contact Info	10:00 EST
Alex W (954) 654- 3149	Hawaii 5:00

WHEN:

6:00 -7:00 PST MSCA Area 09 Committee Sharing Session
7:00 - 8:00pm PST Area 9 Service Workshop

WHERE:

Meeting ID: 873 6607 8505
Passcode: Area09p72

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What's New in A.A. and M.S.C.A.?



[2023 Proposed Budget - To be voted on at the 3/12/23 ASC](#)



[Every Conference-Approved Advisory Action 1951 to 2022](#)



[Panel 73 General Service Conference Agenda Items](#)



[New Spanish version of Experience, Strength, & Hope](#)



[GSO announces that literature prices increasing](#)



[February 2023 ASA Recap of Actions](#)



[Winter 2022 version of Box 4-5-9](#)



[GSO Quarterly Newsletter - November 2022](#)



[GSO announcement of Linda Chezem's resignation](#)



[Need a Zoom meeting? Try New York Intergroup!](#)



[Need a meeting topic? Try Boozer's Bingo!](#)



[GSO Committee Assignments for committee-related questions](#)



[Check aa.org for Mixed-Title Quantity Discount & Hardcover versions of the Big Book and 12 and 12](#)





Area 09 Communications Committee Guidelines Revised!

With the adoption of the new [Technologies Committee Guidelines in 2022](#), it is time to reconsider and revise the old [Communications Committee Guidelines from January 2009](#). At the January 2023 Assembly, Ed L was elected as the new Communications Committee Chair. At the February Area Service Committee Ed presented [background information](#) describing the redundancies between these two committees and presented the new revised guidelines, which are intended to resolve these redundancies, and may be [previewed here](#). If you have comments, questions, or suggestions to improve the draft guidelines, contact Ed (communicationschair@msca09aa.org), attend the hybrid Area Service Committee meeting in March, and be there for the vote at the May Assembly (April is the Mock Conference workshop, so the the first Assembly after March will not be until May). See you there!

