

# MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 9

May 2023

[msca09aa.org](http://msca09aa.org)

MSCA - 09

P.O. Box 51446

Irvine, CA 92619-1446

## Conference Season, The Unseen Faces of A.A.

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

[May 7 - Archives Open House](#)

[May 13 - Sponsorship Workshop](#)

[May 20 - Delegate Shareback Event](#)

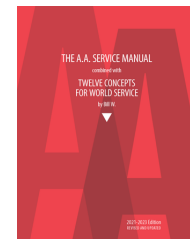
[May 21 - MSCA 09 Area Assembly - Delegate shareback](#)

[View 2023 Calendar](#)

## May Hosting District

**District 14**

## AA Service Manual



## MSCA Area Map



[MSCA website](#)



# MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

## OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®

## Our Trusted Servants, Our Representatives

By Ed L., Communications Committee Chair, Newsletter Editor

Area 09 has been blessed with a long string of Trusted Servants bearing the title, "Delegate." Beginning with Art Brooks in 1959 up through Mitchell B., our current delegate, 33 men and women of A.A. have fulfilled this role on our behalf. They are at the bottom of our Area-level triangle of General Service ensuring that when the hand of A.A. is extended from the General Service Office, or "GSO," in New York they are responsible to pass all pertinent messages on to our General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), standing committee chairs, and seven Area officers, who then have the responsibility to communicate those messages to our Groups and fellow members of A.A. not active in General Service.

As I write this, Mitchell is in New York at the 73rd General Service Conference (GSC). During the week of April 23-29, 2023, Mitchell will chair the GSC Agenda Committee on behalf of eight other delegates and the GSC. He will have the opportunity to vote on dozens of issues affecting the future of A.A., where he will be armed with the myriad of group consciences he received from willing participants since receiving the current list of proposed Agenda Items in mid-February 2023. Although he retains the "Right of Decision" granted in Concept III (see the essay below on page 5) to vote his informed conscience, he now has a full list of pros and cons to advise him on how to vote on each Agenda Item to facilitate the future health of A.A. and to represent Area 09 at the Conference. For those Agenda Items that are approved by 2/3 of the 135-member GSC, they become "Advisory Actions" and get the stamp of "Conference-Approved," which is mostly cited in reference to our internally endorsed literature.

I'm reprinting Jay R.'s essay from the April newsletter on the next page as it presents a good overview of the next steps in keeping informed and communicating these approved Advisory Actions to our Groups, and also those Agenda Items that did not pass muster, when the GSC "Took No Action." The two main ways of keeping informed are to attend one or more of Mitchell's "sharebacks," when he will visit Districts and Groups to inform them about GSC decisions. Anyone can schedule Mitchell to report back to their group, which he will likely do more than 20 times over the next six months. The second way is to pick up the Final Conference Report, which will likely be available in July or August at one of those two Area 09 meetings.



# MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

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## What Is A Delegate “Shareback?”

By Jay R., District Committee Member Chair, District 18

The 2021 – 2023 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual outlines the awesome responsibilities of our elected Area Delegates:

“Delegates are charged with understanding the experiences, viewpoints and group conscience of their areas, while assuming responsibility for the U.S./Canada Conference as a whole.” (p 32)

There are currently 93 Area Delegates, each elected into their service positions by their respective Areas, in the North American (U.S./Canada) A.A. service structure.

Among their many responsibilities, the Area Delegates represent their Areas at the annual General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. In preparation for the annual GSC, each Delegate must become familiar with the long list of Conference agenda items. They must also interact with Groups and members to gather the “group conscience” of their Area. A well informed Delegate will be better prepared to participate in the Conference, and carry the Area’s group conscience in matters affecting A.A. as a whole.

Once the General Service Conference is finished, the Delegates are then tasked with reporting back to their respective Areas the outcomes of the Conference. Some refer to this as a “report-back” or “shareback.”

Mid Southern California Area 9 covers a large geographical portion of Southern California, represents 24 Districts and more than 2,000 A.A. Groups. In order to more efficiently carry GSC information, it is common for Districts and Groups to organize joint meetings or events at which our Delegate is invited to present a “shareback” from the Conference.

Our Area 9 Delegate, Mitchell B, will no doubt be busy from now until well after the close of the 73rd General Service Conference, which is scheduled for April 23-29, 2023! He will likely give “sharebacks” both in person and via Zoom. Two “sharebacks” that are already scheduled are:

[May 20 Delegate Shareback Event](#), presented by Districts 18, 12, and 6. This will be an evening event with dinner, the Delegate shareback, and a musical concert (see flyer on next page)!

[May 21 MSCA 09 Area Assembly - Delegate Shareback](#).

Stay tuned for more details and flyers for these and other shareback events.





**73rd Annual General Service Conference**  
**Area 9 Delegate “Shareback” Event**

Districts 18, 12, and 6 present an evening of fun, food, service, and entertainment!

**When: May 20, 2023, 6:00 – 9:00pm**

**Where: Norma Hertzog Community Center, 1845 Park Ave, Costa Mesa**

5:45 pm: Doors open. Tickets (paper or on phone) required for entry!

6:00 pm: Dinner buffet.

6:45 pm: Shareback and Q&A (Mitchell B, Area 9 Delegate).

7:45 pm: Sugar up at the dessert table.

8:00 pm: Epic concert by **surprise musical guest!**

This event is free of charge; however, we will have a basket at the buffet and ask for a “suggested contribution” of \$5.00 to help defray our costs.

Open to the **first 140 people to Register:**

**<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/shareback>**

(Please be fair and courteous. Do not reserve tickets unless you are sure to attend.)

You can catch the Shareback portion on Zoom:

ID: 858 8970 9797 Passcode: service

# MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

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## What Is the "Right of Decision?"

Excerpt from Mitchell B.'s [March 2023 Delegate's Sharing Session](#) (link for full report)

"[C]onsider 'Participation' as part of the Concept 3 – 'To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional **'Right of Decision.'** And the 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.'** The principle of the concept – Trust. One thing you need to know – Trusted Servants have a **Right of Decision.** There will be times where we'll need to trust our trusted servants to make decisions without a group or service entities approval. Concept 1 – [ Responsibility – Groups Have Ultimate Authority] & Concept 2 – [Reliance – The Conference Listens – Then Speaks] by themselves cannot ensure smooth operation of A.A. business. There will be times that full facts (additional background information) and debate not available to groups, will help further inform our trusted servants and their decisions (and their votes on our behalf). (source: <http://takethe12.org/>). Those decisions may ultimately differ from original group consciences given to them when we ask them to vote on our behalf – but those differently made decisions are vital in allowing them to be more than mere messengers. They have the ability to hear new information and inform on their decisions, let's let them learn more and let us know the new decision.

"The Final Agenda Items were received from GSO on February 10 and Background material arrived February 17 and 20. Area 09 Webmaster Faith B. posted the agenda items to [msca09aa.org](http://msca09aa.org) under 'General Service Office (GSO) – Conference Materials' and the background material under 'Delegate – Confidential Resources.' There are 85 final agenda items following the final approval at the January Trustees Meeting from January 2023. Of the 85 agenda items, with a total of 102 line items, I have identified 34 items where area member can comment and thirteen than may be of greater interest. Of the 34 items there are 12-13 that may be of greatest interest to Area 09 members."



# MID-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA 09

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## Area 09 Highlights - by Mitchell B.

Area 09 was approved at the Eighth General Service Conference in 1958 and elected its first area officers in 1959. One of six areas in California, Area 09 spans four counties: Orange County, San Bernardino County, Riverside County and part of Los Angeles County. The Area includes Catalina Island off the Pacific coast, portions of south Los Angeles, down the oceanfront from Manhattan Beach to San Clemente to the San Diego County border; reaching up north to Barstow; and east past Palm Springs and Coachella Valley to Blythe on the Colorado River. The Area meets 12 times a year, including three Area service assemblies, six Area service committee meetings, a pre-Conference workshop, a Servathon, and our FORO, a jointly hosted event by Spanish- and English-speaking districts. The Area consists of 24 districts, with six overlapping Spanish-speaking districts. Most of our districts have subdistricts with both DCMCs and DCMs. From the new Fellowship Connection there are 2,028 active groups in Area 09, with 47 new virtual groups, where approximately 62,600 members attend. Area 09 is comprised of 19 standing committees, including Remote Communities, Technology, and Young People. Coordinate committees include five Young People in A.A. Intergroups, 14 central offices (including six Hispanic offices), and eight Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) committees, with 34 local H&I committees. We regularly distribute information electronically and on a newly redesigned website to more than 1,100 present and past trusted servants, with about 220 actively participating at any given time, through online and in-person events. Area 09 is committed to having the heart and message of A.A. available, both in-person and online, for those who suffer and those in service who carry the message of hope and love.



## COMMITTEE PAGE LINKS

[Accessibilities](#)

[Archives](#)

[Communications](#)

[Convention Liaison](#)

[Cooperation with Elder Community](#)

[Cooperation with Professional Community](#)

[Corrections](#)

[District Committee Member School](#)

[Finance](#)

[General Service Representative School](#)

[Grapevine/La Viña](#)

[Guidelines and Policies \(GAP\)](#)

[Hospitals & Institutions \(H&I\)](#)

[Literature](#)

[Public Information](#)

[Registration](#)

[Remote Communities](#)

[Technology](#)

[Treatment](#)

[Young People in A.A.](#)

## Your Panel 72 Officers

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

## Online Contributions



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Contact the editor (Ed L) at [editor@msca09aa.org](mailto: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 is 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!



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



## **New and Older Resources in A.A. and M.S.C.A**

**[Free Book on Sponsorship with Grapevine Subscription](#)**

**["The Home Group - Heartbeat of A.A." - New, Revised version](#)**

**[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](#)**

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

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

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

## **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](mailto:communicationschair@msca09aa.org)) and be prepared to vote at the May Assembly (April was the Mock Conference workshop, so the the first Assembly after March will not be until May). See you there!

