Winter 2007

MSCA 09 – District 5 Newsletter
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3374, Tustin, CA 92681-3374
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SPOTLIGHT

Area 9 On-Line Forum: If you are willing to share your experience, strength and hope regarding topics that affect all of A.A. try visiting the Area website (msca09aa.org) and click on the On-line Forum of Area 9. Currently the topic is **"Unity: Our Common Welfare Should Come First, Principles Before Personalities, and Diversity: Reaching Out to All Alcoholics."** The questions listed are only a suggested starting point. The on-line Forum is one way (of many ways) that you can have a voice and can share your experience, opinions, concerns, conscience, and hope on these matters with the newly elected Panel 58 Delegate and the rest of us. Also if you just want to learn more about General Service, this is a way to see several different points of view. **Be aware** - The Forum Guidelines state: *"No names will be posted. No entries which attack or criticize another person will be posted. No entries mentioning outside issues in a controversial or provocative manner will be posted. No entries containing profanity will be posted. Entries found objectionable by 2/3 of the Electronic Media Subcommittee will not be posted."* Other topics are also open for your review or response.

ASK A SERVICE SPONSOR

How does A.A. avoid being political when they have elections?

In my opinion (and experience) a General Service election is one of the miracles of A.A. MSCA Area 9 held their election on October 14th. At an election everyone who is eligible for an office according to the Area Guidelines "stands" for the election.   Usually they briefly list the other service positions they have held which make them eligible, but they are not allowed to make any campaign statements or promises. The names of all eligible candidates are posted on a board and voting members cast written ballots. The tally is then calculated and if any candidate receives two-thirds of the total vote they are elected. If nobody does then a second ballot is tallied. Sometimes people will vote differently at this point. If a two-thirds majority is still not achieved then any candidate with less than one-fifth of the total vote is automatically withdrawn except the top two candidates must remain. The third ballot only lists the top two candidates. If nobody has gotten two-thirds of the total vote after the third ballot then it is repeated. If no one is elected after the fourth ballot then the Chair asks for a motion on whether to have another ballot or "go to the hat". If the motion to go to the hat is seconded and passes by a simple majority then the names are put into a hat (literally) and the name that is drawn from the hat will serve in the position. As I see it, this gives our Higher Power the final vote. Three members of Area 9's next board were "taken from the hat" which means that our Area has many well-respected participants willing to serve.

Coming Events

District Meetings monthly, each Second Thursday 7:00 pm (GSR Orientation 6:30 pm) Church Building, 19211 Dodge Ave., Tustin, CA

January 13th 9:30 a.m., Assembly, Masonic Lodge 11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840. GSRs vote on the agenda items that were presented at the December 9th ASC. District 5 (this district) is host of this event. Volunteers are needed for set up, registration, serving lunch, and cleanup. Volunteers get to hang out with people who are sober and who care deeply about sobriety. They do this work to preserve their own sobriety and to make sure that A.A. continues to serve newcomers that they may never meet. If you want to help call Keith at 714-720-4353 or come to the District Meeting on Dec. 13th or tell your GSR.

"I am responsible. Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."