

**Mid-Southern California Area 9 Service Committee Minutes  
August 9, 2009**

Meeting was called to order by Jason at 12:11pm with the Serenity Prayer.

**Readings:**

**Readings: Declaration of Unity: Scott, Julio A.S.C. Statement of Purpose and Membership: Milt, Ramon. Tradition 8: Kimberli, Marcelo. Concept 8: Jim B., Jose A.**

**Approval of 2009 June Area Service Committee minutes.** Motion/2nd (Scott/Steve S.) to approve minutes with one change

**Officers Reports:**

**Delegate's Report– Joe B.**

**Publications** Total distribution of all books through June 2009 was 1,495,764, up 37% from the same period in 2008. Through the month of June 2009, we distributed 866,548 units. That the 2010 International Convention souvenir version of *A.A. Comes of Age* in soft-cover Format be priced at \$7.00. That future Membership Survey displays be produced in Spanish and French. That the abridged format of the Big Book be produced in audio CD format with an estimated Price of \$18.00. That the American Sign Language (ASL) Big Book and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* videos be converted to DVD Format.

**Financial** There was a net sale of \$8,410,300 during the first six months of 2009. Gross profit from literature was \$5,099,410, approximately \$433,513 (9%) over budget and \$1,416,427 (38%) more than the same period in 2008. Contributions received for the first six months of \$2,883,440 were \$221,050 (7%) less than budgeted and \$203,264 (7%) less than the first six months of 2008. Resulting gross revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on cash flow) was \$7,983,534. Total revenue was \$210, 131 more than budgeted and \$1,209,507 more than the same time period last year. Unaudited net profit for the first six months of \$1,313,607 compares with a budgeted profit of \$1,153,716 and was \$1,280,151 greater than the \$43,456 reported for the same period in 2008.

**AA Grapevine Financial Report** For the six months ending June 30, 2009, AA Grapevine, Inc. realized a loss of \$27,139 in comparison to a budgeted net loss of \$163,055. This was ahead of budget by \$135,917. Total AA Grapevine income, including interest from the Reserve Fund was \$920,835 or \$100,539 ahead of budget. Total AA Grapevine expenses were \$947,973 or \$35,378 below the budget of \$983,351.

**La Vina Financial Report** Magazine income was \$46,877, which was under budget by \$880. Circulation averaged 9,620 at June 30, 2009. Net loss for the year was \$22,124. This was ahead of the budgeted loss of \$52,380 by \$30,256.

**Corrections** A subcommittee was appointed to bring a plan for proceeding with the project of revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" and will report back to the October 31, 2009 meeting of this committee. The committee discussed the request from the 2009 Conference Committee on Corrections for gathering of shared Fellowship experience regarding the signing of "legally binding documents" and tabled further discussion until its October 31, 2009 meeting. The chair appointed a subcommittee to begin to compile suggestions regarding signing legally binding documents that may be helpful to AA members involved in Corrections service and report back to the October 31, 2009.

**International Conventions/Regional Forums** Registration forms for the International Convention will be mailed in August and registration forms, online and paper, will open on September 1, 2009. The committee agreed there would be no Fun Run because of declining interest and heat concerns. A local forum was approved for the Spanish speaking districts in Area 08 San Diego/Imperial California on August 22, 2010. It was recommended and approved that online hotel registration for Regional Forums will be available on GSO's AA Web site with "page break disclaimers."On a side note. Anyone who is planning to attend the International Convention and would like to be of service there, please come and see me.

**Pacific Region Trustee** We will be electing a new Pacific Regional Trustee at the 2010 General Service Conference. We will be electing our Area's candidate by third legacy procedure at an upcoming Assembly, just as a reminder to everyone that is qualified to stand for this position and all of us who will be voting to be prepared.

**Alt. Delegate: Mike M.**

I have had the privilege of doing reports with our Delegate in districts 1,5,6, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. Like any position I have held, the pleasure comes from being of service. My heart lifts when I see a new GSR or a new face here at the Area. One of the first things I learned in General Service was compromise. We as officers should work together to ensure the hand of AA is there for those who need it. Sadly some only know how to criticize rather than cooperate to find solutions. Now a question has come up on who runs the area. I always thought it was a loving God as expressed through the group conscience. It is that conscience expressed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> legacy that elected me and my fellow officers. I believe that is the Assembly that should run the Area through the Officers it elects. Others believe that we have a self-electing board that has the authority over the officers and the Area. This was not the intent in 1988 when MSCA filed as a nonprofit. They assert that we should be a non member corporation like the General Service Office. I would point out that even the GSB answers to the groups through the oversight and approval of the conference. Comparing our Area to the GSB answers to the groups through the oversight and approval of the conference. Comparing our Area to the GSB is like saying a wheel is a car. *"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.* The idea of a board that is not elected by the Area and answers to no one but themselves goes against almost everything you have taught me. *"Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."* I don't understand why some wish to deprive the groups of their right of decision on who their elected servants should be. The choice becomes either the Area will be the ones to elect your trusted servants or you will relinquish that duty to a board you neither elect nor have oversight of. We as your elected trusted servants are trying to clear this up for the next panel. Once again I must remember that none of us does this alone and I am just one of many lucky enough to find A.A.

**Treasurer: Linda H.**

In two months we will have elections for Area Officers/Directors. If you are thinking of being Area Treasurer, you need to know that we have a monthly Area Officers meeting and it is important that you attend these meetings, as well as attending all ASC's and Area Assembly's, the Foro and the Servathon, plus Finance Committee meetings, where you are voting member and at the end of the year assist with the budget to be submitted for approval in January. As Treasurer you will have to be organized and be able to multi-task and of course sign on the MSCA 09 account. More to come in September. Our balance at this time in 2008 was \$15,000.76 and it is 2009 at \$9,215.64 and will be less after expenses are entered from checks written today. I thoroughly enjoyed the Foro and visiting District 12 & 18. There was a wild card this

year – the Area Officers were informed we had By-Laws and a Board of Directors. An Attorney was hired and we found out we were not in compliance and our Directors had been in place for 21 years! You will hear more about this under New Business. Also, see me at the end of the meeting if you want to know where you are on your budget.

**Registrar: Cesar F.**

Registrar computer is in the repair shop and there is a delay in getting fixed. Will have the computer next week. In order for GSRs to be able to vote at the area election they need to attend one assembly. The next assembly is in September. Please tell your GSRs. I encourage you to stand for Registrar. Today there are 40 GSRs, 55 district committee officers, 8 visitors. Total 102 people.

**Secretary: Sharon K.**

It is a pleasure to serve as MSCA 09 secretary. My first couple of months serving have been challenging and sometimes confusing. I thank those of you in the area for your guidance and input as I continue to learn and grow in this position. I can assure you that I am doing my best to act on behalf of you and do my best to place principles before personalities in all I do. This isn't always easy. There has been some question as to the availability and accessibility of the minutes for review prior to approval at the area meeting. The process is after I type the minutes I email them to the area officers, DCMCs, committee chairs, past delegates, past and current trustees. They then review and submit changes to me. If you are part of this group and are not receiving my email please see me. Also please fill out your committee/district reports and submit to me. They are up here and at the registration table. If you have any questions please call me at 562-243-4242 or email me at sharonsdogs@aol.com.

**Area Chair: Jason S.**

Met with the Finance Committee and it has become apparent that all of the officers and committee chairs need to respond quickly to the Finance Chair's request for budgets. Also one committee did not submit their expenses until January 2009 for 2008. Please get these in quickly. Area officers and directors are working together to get a solution and transition the state of corporation of MSCA 09 and the details will be presented today in new business.

**Old Business**

**Proposal 1:** Carrie S. GSR for Saturday 915 12 & 12 Irvine: asked to request AAWS to rescind the contract with Amazon to sell the Big Book online for Kindle. 2) Ask AAWS to request permission from the groups to sell the Big Book for Kindle on Amazon.com in compliance with Tradition 2 and Tradition 9. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Scott/Linda H) Motion failed.

**Proposal 2:** Bruce H. Past Delegate: Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Bruce/Mike M.) to present to the next Assembly to prohibit the Finance Chair from changing assembly-approved budget until next assembly meets. Discussion. Passed. Minority opinion was discussed. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Alex/Linda H) to reconsider. Motion to reconsider passed. Motion to present to Assembly failed.

**New Business**

**Calendar:** Area Chair presents Proposed 2010 Area Meeting Schedule. Recommendations from the floor: removal of out of area meetings. Make October 10 an ASC. Change April 11 to April 4 due to Easter. Change hosting district for May 9 from District 15 to District 6. DCMC will be contacted from District 6 to verify. July 11 switch to District 24. Change May 9 to May 16. Discussion.

**Budget Override Request CPC:** Request for Budget Override: CPC Michael M. – Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Michael M/Yvonne) to CPC budget increase \$650. Discussion. Motion carries.

**Budget Override Request GV/LV:**

Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Kimberli/Michael M) Combined budget for Grapevine/La Vina be increased by \$400. Discussion. Motion Carries.

Presentation of Background Information and Report of Area Attorney regarding current Corporate Status of MSCA09 and the necessity of changing the By-Laws to bring the Area into Compliance with CA Corporate Law. Her letter to the Area is attached. Her presentation was well received and many pertinent questions were asked and answered. There is no action required by the Area in order to change the By Laws. The corporation has been structured since its inception as a "Non Member Corporation", which means that the Directors (at this time there are two) are the sole decision makers for legal matters. The presentation was designed to inform the members of MSCA that the new by laws will change the structure of MSCA to a "Member Corporation" and that when the new board takes on its responsibilities January 1, 2010, that among their duties will be to serve as Directors of the Corporation. In addition, eligible voting members of the Area will also be voting members of the corporation. Therefore, MSCA will be structured to conform to the way it has customarily been operating for the past 22 years. The two directors were present and assured the assembly that they are very pleased with the adjustment and will look forward to turning over the responsibilities to all the members of the MSCA on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Standing Committee Reports***

**Archives – Joseph H.** Discussion on Heritage Day, Yvonne B is the Ad Hoc Chair on planning Heritage Day. Archives requested District 8 host this year's event at the Archives Repository on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Archives display & presentation at the 2009 MSCA Foro was a huge success with the Spanish Districts of 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25; Movie night at the Archives continues to be a success which was assembled around the history of MSCA de Foro. Archives presentation at District 5 on July 9. Upcoming events include Archives presentations: District 19 – Aug. 22, National Archives Workshop Area 93 – Sept. 24 – 26, IEAA Convention Oct 16-17 and Heritage Day Oct. 24.

**Communication Committee—Linda C.** Committee is discussing and reviewing budget and will submit budget request prior to the September Area Assembly. There appears to be enough left in the 2009 budget to cover the committee expenses for the rest of the year, including gas mileage for area events and publishing the newsletter. The chair agreed that the mileage would be charged to the committee and then given back to the Area as a donation in order not to put more strain on the Area finances and still show accurately the appropriate expenses for the committee. A new topic for the Website Forum is in preparation and will be online as soon as possible. A reminder to let the committee chair know of items to be published in the newsletter and/or on the website. A reminder to send items for translation as soon as possible so that the sub-committee doesn't get everything at once just before an area meeting and to send all items for translation to the ACC chair in addition to the Translation sub-committee. Also noted that the Interpreters are hired by and supervised by the Area Officers and are not part of the Translation sub-committee.

**Cooperation with the Elder Community Committee – Rick H.** working on budget to turn in. **CPC Spanish – Santiago –** thanks Archives in helping with their committee. It would be difficult to continue without them. Invite you to 26<sup>th</sup> September event. We continue to visit the districts and events we are invited and are attending a health fair next weekend. Days of work we had but had a lot of help from the Spanish community.

**CPC – Michael –** Discussed PSAs & where to place them. Discussed placement of literature racks in schools and churches. Discussed CPC presentations given to date: 2,5,6,7,8, 10, 12, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24. Continue the planning for CPC/PI workshop. Next meeting is 8/13/09 @ 6:30pm in Moreno Valley. Discussed purchase of laptop, projector. CPC presentation w/Brea PD in September quarterly meeting.

PSA on buses for the holidays – will talk to PI chair Miguel. Upcoming events include CPC staffing booth at Anaheim Health Fair 8/16/09.

**Convention Liaison Spanish** – Jose A. – I'm still meeting with the South Bay committee from 2 to 4pm and contributing to plan the State Convention. The 3rd. Local Congress will take place August 14 -16, 2009. The Banquet is on Saturday from 4-6pm at St. Albert the Great Church at 804 E. Compton Bl., Ranch Dominguez, Ca. 90220. Convention of Orange; Oct. 3-5. at the Anaheim Hotel of Fullerton. National Spanish Speaking Convention; Sept. 4-6, 2009. Host City: Albuquerque N.M.

**Corrections** – Alex O. New from GSO, Gayle is beginning her rotation. She is retiring after reading up to 500 letters a month. She still sends me 2009 – 2010 conference approved literature and other service material books. She also sent me "Sharing from behind the walls". The magazine Grapevine is now staple free to make easier to get into correctional facilities. There will be another staff member full time until sometime in the fall. Between now and then, their same experienced past staff members are filling in. The phone number and email address are still the same. I went to the Foro and to H & I in Laguna Beach. There was mail at the PO box and tanks to Nicole from Bakersfield, Matt from Bakersfield, Scott, Desmond, and Lori from Anaheim and Bernard from Yucca Valley.

**Finance - Joseph M.** Financial status of Area 9 is ok. Area income is down, but expenses are down also. There were budget override presentations made by CPC and Grapevine/La Vina committees. The area chair asked for a closer cooperation with the finance committee and the Area Officers in preparing the 2010 budget. Upcoming events include budget process starting today with the distribution of budget request packets that need to be returned by the September 2009 area meeting.

**Grapevine** – Kimberli A. Due to an anonymous donation of a fold out board I am doing display boards including one highlighting the articles in Grapevine where Bill W first presented the idea of the 12 traditions and preamble. Reminder that complete year Grapevine makes great sobriety gifts. Please take notice of address changes for Grapevine on the back page of the area newsletter and subscriptions are now \$27/year. Upcoming event includes a presentation at District 7 Service Day on August 16 .

**La Viña** –Ángela R. We had 17 members in attendance with lots of questions. The feeling was almost unanimous that we don't want that the magazine to go away. We want to continue supporting it and we also want to discuss it at the area level; we'd like to discuss and explore some options in order to help eliminate the La Vina deficit we are facing in New York. We'd also like to know if anything is being done in a national level and how that's working in different states. These are some of the questions that were asked today and that my report. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**GSR School SPANISH** – Paco G. Good afternoon and thank you for the great food. I want to thank God and you all for allowing me to serve. We started our meeting with the Serenity Prayer. We had 30 people present, 3 new GSRs, 19 GSRs and 2 alternate GSRs, as well as members from H&I, Intergroup and members from districts 20-25. We reviewed Concept VIII and we got a lot of input from everyone there. Thanks to you, to the spirit of AA and to God for giving me the privilege of serving.

**Literature Spanish** – Antonio M. Joint report English/Spanish completing download "What's it All About?" pamphlet in .PDF form and will be avail. By Sept. Assembly on MSCA09AA.org website. Will be a single page.

**Public Information Spanish** – Francisco D.. 6 members on this committee. Discussion was regarding what the PI committee does and how to better the committee. We also discussed what we talk about when we are in the public and the importance of anonymity and the workshops on inventory.

**Treatment Facilities** – Al F. nothing to report. If anyone in the various districts would like to get involved please email me or see me after the meeting.

**Sound** Raul– If you are interested in doing this position in January, I'd be happy to teach you.

**Coffee** Mauricio– Thanks for allowing me to serve.

**H& I – Revo** 2010 H & I conference will be at the Long Beach Marriott April 30 – May 2. I will be the chair. Planning committee will be starting September 6 the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month at the Intercity Fellowship Hall in Long Beach.

### **Districts Roll Call**

**District 6** – met last Tuesday – 53 in attendance. Special Needs chair.

**District 7** – Next Sunday at the Rock center to show them some literature, grapevines, thank District 6 for delegate report a few months ago.

**District 9** – was inactive in August. The Unity Day picnic, the Pow Wow and Mad Dog Daze went well. Deana is our district secretary now.

**District 11** – District GSR School co-chair – district secretary moved out of area. Esperanza was elected new secretary. Report back from FORO. This will be first FORO to present summary at Area level. Voted to approach groups about marathon meetings put on by District during 3-day holiday weekends.

**District 12 – Bill** – various speakers from area attend our meetings, new PI chair and the District has been active putting Big Books and Grapevines in libraries in our district. We have purchased La Vina and Grapevine and in the process to place Big Book in Spanish and Korean in libraries. Upcoming events include hosting the October Elections and November – Tradition Day and our elections.

**District 15** - Meeting this month and discussed topic of merging with District 10 due to lack of participation. We will be discussing re-districting the area. Our area is affluent through contributions and district 10 has the bodies. They are willing to drive the extra distance to place District 10 has the meetings.

**District 17** – Area web servant gave presentation to our district. We are getting ready and in order to host the area meeting in November. There were 3 of us today.

**District 18** – Scott R. and Bruce visited our district to discuss GSR school and the court card concepts. Going to look at revising the district guidelines.

**District 20** – District 20 is glad to report that without any excuses we meet every Monday and visit a couple meetings per week. This level of activity has paid off and is the reason why we have 15 members attending this assembly. In our group visits we let them know about upcoming area elections that are close. We attended the archives presentation given at District 5 and we helped out the CPC committee at the Episcopal Convention in Anaheim. The La Vina Committee of District 20 had a good 13th anniversary event.

**District 21** – Our district sends it's regards to the members of the Area. We want to report that our district is still meeting 3 times per month and visiting the groups. We are encouraging the 7th tradition contributions and we remind them how important it is to get involved in service. In our business meeting one of the GSR's motioned that we discuss VHS movies for audio-video committee and the possibility to update them to DVD. We accepted the motion and decided to bring here and discuss it at the area level so that we can get your input. We are supporting our active district committees such as: La Vina, PI, Audio-Video and the District Newsletter.

**District #22:** Our district continues to meet every Tuesday with a business meeting and a book study meeting. We have active committees that include La Vina, PI, Foro and Old-Timers local committees. On October 18th, we will have our elections from 8am to 12pm at the district meeting place. We are ready to welcome you at the CPC/PI event in which we will be your hosting district on Sept. 26th. Today we have 9 members attending and happy to learn from you. We are also happy to report that we just had another meeting started in the city of a Thousand Palms and tomorrow they will be meeting for the first time.

**District #23:** Our district meets 4 Fridays of every month and we are working with a plan to encourage 7th tradition contributions. Last Friday July 31, we had a presentation by psychologist Miriam Aragon at the Nueva Conciencia Group with; interpersonal relationships as the topic. It was well attended by many AA's, Members of Al-Anon and other family members. Our next meeting for this same purpose will be held at the Grupo Hispano del Este de Riverside with guest speaker from the pioneer groups of the District starting at 8am until 10pm on August 15, 2009. We are working hard along with District 11 in order to finish writing minutes of the last area Foro in its entirety. On Sept. 25th we will have our district officer's election for Panel 60 and you are all invited.

**District #24:** Our district continues to work in its usual way; visiting 2 groups a week and encouraging the groups to get involved in service and in the 7th tradition contributions. We had a power point presentation by the area CPC committee. We had two members of the district volunteer to serve in the CPC committee at the district level and one of them will be the district CPC chair and the other will be alternate chair. We now have a new meeting place for the district which is at the same address as the old one but bigger. It's in Suite #206. The date was set for the election of our new district officers on Sept. 22 and you are all welcome. The PI committee is taking a panel into a community center in the city of Fullerton every Friday. Isidro is the new district Archivist. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

**District 25 –** District 25 is working hard as usual. We meet the first 4 Mondays of the month and visit at least 2 groups every week and we also attend any speaking invitations that we get from the groups. Usually we are invited to speak at meetings that serve as preparation for the group anniversaries. In our normal visits we try and encourage the groups to elect their GSR and an alternate. Up until now our district is made up of 17 groups and 16 of them have a GSR representing them at the district.

**District 30 –**

**Birthdays:** Scott – 28, Brenda – 16, Rick – 6, Angela – 16, Raul – 29, Art – 7, Jose - 10

THE ASC ADJOURNED at 3:40pm with the Responsibility Pledge: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, And for that, I am responsible."

Minutes respectfully submitted by Panel 58 Secretary –Sharon K.

**MOTIONS:**

1. Motion/2nd (Scott/Steve S.) to approve minutes with one change
2. Carrie S. GSR for Saturday 915 12 & 12 Irvine: asked to request AAWS to rescind the contract with Amazon to sell the Big Book online for Kindle. 2) Ask AAWS to request permission from the groups to sell the Big Book for Kindle on Amazon.com in compliance with Tradition 2 and Tradition 9. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Scott/Linda H) Motion failed.
3. Bruce H. Past Delegate: Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Bruce/Mike M.) to present to the next Assembly to prohibit the Finance Chair from changing assembly-approved budget until next assembly meets. Discussion. Passed. Minority opinion was discussed. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Alex/Linda H) to reconsider. Motion to reconsider passed. Motion to present to Assembly failed.
4. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Michael M/Yvonne) to CPC budget increase \$650. Discussion. Will be presented again in November. (Was this tabled? what was the disposition of the motion?)
5. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Kimberli/Michael M) Combined budget for Grapevine/La Vina be increased by \$400. Discussion. Motion carries.
6. Motion/2<sup>nd</sup> (Nancy/Steve) to suspend guidelines to allow the budget override requests to go through before the next Assembly. Motion carries.