

The Mid Southern California Area 9 Newsletter

The Monthly General Service Newsletter for Area 9 of the General Service Conference
P.O.Box 51446, Irvine, CA 92619-1446 www.msca09aa.org

MSCA Area 9 includes all AA groups in the counties of Los Angeles (South of Rosecrans Ave.), San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange.

December 2006

Concept 11– Who Really Does the Work

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

Okay, if you tried to read the above text in one breath, and have now regained consciousness from the oxygen-deprived state which that would have brought about, let's take another approach. Simply stated, (a) the General Service Board of Trustees should take great care in selecting the people who will compose the service boards and committees and those people who will be employed at the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine, and (b) where these people are employed, they should be paid commensurate with the requirements of their job.

In Bill W's essay on this Concept, he relates that the people we employ at the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine will always be the first line of communications and direct service to the Fellowship, in essence they will be the "face of Worldwide A.A. service". If you have ever met any of these staff people from G.S.O., you probably agree that we are fortunate to have these committed employees working for us. And how about those 13 staff positions that require that the employee be a recovering alcoholic – wow, can you imagine the application!

That's it. Simple, huh?

A member of A.A. in Orange County.

Area 9 Website

Our website, www.msca09aa.org, continues to get an average of over 150 visitors (sessions) per day, and has been experiencing this rate since March of this year. Members continue to use this website to find maps and agendas for upcoming events, locations of central offices (and their on-line listings of AA meeting locations) monthly and yearly calendars, current and past newsletters, and information about our Area committees, districts, and service positions.

Delegate's Corner

I would like to report on my visits to some of our fellow Area Elections over the last 2 months. On October 22nd I had the honor and privilege, with 5 or 6 other members of Area 9, of attending the Area 05 Election Assembly. It was a great day filled with lots of love and service. First up was the election of the Area 5 delegate. But before that was to take place there was a slight snafu which was that 125 members voted when they reported only 111 members were eligible to vote. It took 45 minutes to clear this up before we could proceed with a valid ballot. Finally after 5 ballots it went to the spiritual process of the hat with 2 names going into the hat and the name of Gustavo being chosen to serve the next 2 years as their Panel 57 delegate. I know that Gustavo will serve Area 5 and AA as a fine example of what we look for in our trusted servants.

By the end of the day the new Panel was complete with a new Panel of loving and qualified trusted servants. I am sure Area 9 will greet all their new servants either at the 4 Area DCM sharing day or at PRAASA.

Next up was a road trip to Antioch for the elections in Area 6. Linda and I arrived after a 430 mile road trip at our hotel and a hunt for food, but ready for Saturday and their election. Next day we had breakfast and halfway through I looked up to see one of my fellow Delegates from Area 42 walk into the restaurant. After hugs we proceeded to talk about what was going on in our respective areas. Next I was introduced to the incoming chair Sophie K and we shared on taking Area inventory. Next we drove to the Contra Costa Fairgrounds for the elections. Arriving there I was pleased to see 350 AA's gathered to experience the 3rd Legacy procedure. Sharon B came out of the hat as the Delegate for Area 6.

I could not believe they had over 300 people in attendance for their elections; since they are only slightly bigger than Area 9!

Then Mike, Linda and I started off for Area 93 Assembly and Elections (a two day affair)! It was nice to see such loving discussion. On Sunday, the election began and Debbie J. was elected Delegate on the first ballot. Since I had served with Debbie when both of us were Chairpersons of our Areas, I was glad to see her get elected. The most qualified person in my opinion was definitely Debbie. They also elected some people who were Committee Chairs, DCMC and, I almost forgot, we got to eat breakfast at CRAZY OTTO'S in Antelope Valley.

Love thru Service Bruce H.



Good Servathon!

On behalf of District 30, I wish to thank everyone who attended the Servathon on Nov 11th. By all accounts, everyone had a good time and enjoyed the good food and good fellowship. Though an actual head count was not taken, I estimate 90 to 100 in attendance. Thank you to our guest speakers, Nick M., Nancy J., and Jim C., for your informative presentations. Big thanks also go out to all the committees for bringing up your displays to share with us. Is it not a shame that we in MSCA09 have these interesting displays available, and yet seldom utilize them!

Good comments came from all around, and much drooling over the First Edition Big Book. Last but not least I wish to Thank, all the members of district 30 for their efforts in putting together this Servathon.

Thanks Again,
Kerry A

Attention DCM's and DCMC's

".... The DCM is a key link in ensuring that all the A.A. groups are aware of the importance of total participation in local, district and world services....."***

What an order? How can I do that? The DCM School Committee can help. We meet prior to every Area Service Committee, (ASC) meeting and every Area Assembly. We share our experience, strength and hope in applying all of Alcoholics Anonymous' 36 principles for the purpose of accomplishing our tasks at this service level.

We invite you to join us to help improve you and your fellow DCM's service.

Jim B and Tina B,
DCM School Committee Chair and Alternate Chair

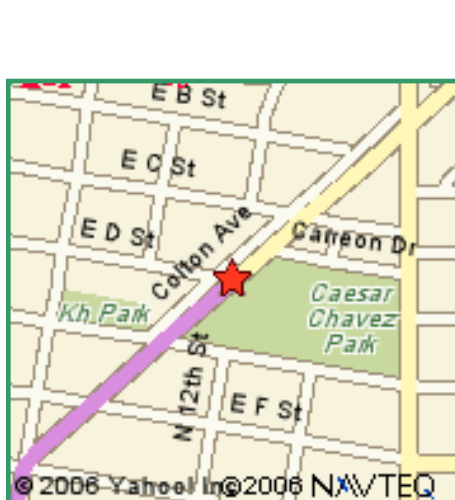
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Jan. 14 MSCA Assembly, 660 Colton Ave, Colton

From the intersection of the 57 and 60 Freeways:

Take **CA-60 EAST** - go **15.3 mi**
Take the **I-15** exit toward **BARSTOW** - go **3.2 mi**
Take the **I-10** exit toward **SAN BERNARDINO** - go **13.1 mi**
Take the **9TH STREET** exit - go **0.2 mi**
Turn left on **N 9TH ST** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn right on **E VALLEY BLVD** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn left on **N 10TH ST** - go **0.2 mi**
Bear right on **COLTON AVE** - go **0.3 mi**
Arrive at **660 COLTON AVE, COLTON**, on the right

From the East, at the intersection of CA-111 and I-10: Go west on I-10 - go 41.5 mi
Take the **9TH ST** exit toward **DOWNTOWN** - go **0.2 mi**
Turn Right on **N 9TH ST** - go **< 0.1 mi**
Turn Right on **E VALLEY BLVD** - go **0.1 mi**
Turn Left on **N 10TH ST** - go **0.2 mi**
Bear Right on **COLTON AVE** - go **0.3 mi**
Arrive at **660 COLTON AVE, COLTON**, on the Right



First Bi-Lingual Public Information Workshop

Another Day in Paradise came to mind on October 28, 2006, as Mid-Southern California Area 09 held its first annual/bilingual Public Information Workshop.

As Committee members started arriving with Chili, salsa, sandwiches, water, sodas, and coffee and of course doughnuts, fruit trays and more. It was awesome! One of our District Public Information Chairs volunteered to print badges and a flyer "What AA is and What AA is not" plus our "Anonymity Statement" for our guests both Alcoholic and non-Alcoholic. It was clear that everything was coming together for one purpose.

It was great watching the Public Information Committee's hard work come to fruition. We were a bit handicapped by the Esperanza fire (about 35 miles away according to the news) but this did not deter this committee. Of course, as any Alcoholic, I worried. Then the words of Susan U. came to me "God is in charge!" He certainly was and still is and I hope I will never forget those words.

We started out reading "What Public Information work is and Why AA's Do It?" states "Public Information (P.I.) means carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the AA program" (taken out of the *Public Information Workbook*) and read in both English & Spanish.

I then had the privilege of introducing our Panel 56 Delegate, Bruce H., who spoke on the history of Public Information.

Previous to our Keynote speaker addressing us, I asked the Doctor's wife to let us know how the letter she & her husband composed and mailed to over 200 of his colleagues came about. She explained it started when she would go to her AA meeting and hear members talking badly about Doctors; then she would go home and her husband/Doctor would be talking badly about Alcoholics. She felt caught in the middle! When the General Service Representative (GSR) position became open, someone nominated her and soon after she and the Doctor composed the letter and sent it out with the pamphlet, *AA AS A RESOURCE FOR THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL*.

Doctor Oliai, our Keynote speaker, was born in Iran, came to the United States and when practicing as an intern in a Wisconsin Emergency Room. He told a story of opening a door in the Emergency Room and seeing a man sitting their shaking. He closed the door and politely inquired of the Emergency Room nurse what was wrong with the man behind the door. She replied d.t.'s! He asked what d.t.'s are. She then replied delirium tremens caused by drinking too much alcohol. The Doctor went on to tell us that where he was born, if you were found drinking alcohol or drunk, you shamed the family.

So when the Doctor's wife came home and told him she had began attending AA meetings, even though he was

a prominent Doctor in his field in the USA, that stigma came back for a moment. However, after 6+ years of his wife being in AA, he saw the change and became aware of "sponsorship". He spoke on how wise he thought our co-founders were in having one alcoholic talking to another.

The Doctor went on to say how impressed he was by sponsorship; which was great to hear coming from a non-alcoholic. We then had questions & answers and one of the answers was regarding prescription medication. The Dr.'s answer was to have the sponsor accompany the patient because many in the medical profession are of ethnic minorities where alcoholism is not recognized or are unaware of our disease of alcoholism.

As part of the program, everything that was read was in English and Spanish. We were blessed to have translators and translation equipment and an alcoholic who set up the microphone & sound system.

After questions and answers, we broke for lunch. We had a wonderful potluck and everyone on the Public Information Committee contributed. We got to interact with the Doctor on a one on one. The Public Information Committee presented him with the book *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE* in gratitude for him giving his valuable time to us.

After lunch, we had the great pleasure of hearing from a young teacher who teaches English as a second language. When she spoke in Spanish, I watched as all the Hispanic members attending faces lit up in surprise hearing Spanish spoken from a young, blonde High School Teacher. Then questions & answers—the main one I heard was what can we do to help?

Our last speaker was a Librarian, from the Friends of Sun City Library. He spoke about some experiences he had with Alcoholics and when it came to questions, his main question was "is it true that *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS* (commonly known as the Big Book) is the most stolen book in the library? The Public Information Committee also presented our non-alcoholic Librarian with the book *ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS COMES OF AGE*.

The very last part of the program was viewing the new Public Service Announcements "Testimonials" in Spanish and English which was great!

Our bilingual Public Information Committee had started a dialogue with each other and especially with the Professionals.

As Chair/Moderator, I had the privilege of thanking the PI Committee, the Committees who brought their displays, the host District and the Translators! The gratitude & humility I felt was overwhelming!

We then closed the workshop full of gratitude by reading the Responsibility Declaration in English and Spanish. God was and always is in charge.

Thru love & service Linda H.

Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principal; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that, though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

This is the capstone for the previous 11 concepts. Like the 12th step describes the rewards of the 12 steps and the 12th Tradition describes the rewards of the 12 Traditions, this Concept describes the rewards of the 12 Concepts. No service body in Alcoholics Anonymous strives harder than the General Service Conference to cleave to the 6 Warranties outlined above. Whoa! Warranties! That's like a guarantee, correct? Absolutely correct.

There are two bodies of thought and principle in Alcoholics Anonymous that our co-founder, Bill W., found to be of supremely vital importance. These 6 warranties are one of those bodies and the 12 Traditions are the other. How do I know that Bill applied such importance to these two collections of principles. Are you aware that the General Service Conference could change the step 12 at their meeting in 2006 to read something like, *"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to the world, and practice these principles in most of our affairs"*. Yep, they could do it with 2/3 of the General Service Conference voting to do so – that's all it takes. But do you know what it takes to change the 12 Traditions of the 6 Warranties listed above? Listen to this: it would take the written permission of ¾ of all the groups known to exist by the General Service Office. In other words, it ain't gonna happen!!

Why such importance? Doesn't it seem like a lack of proportion? Well, if you can't see the wisdom in applying such protection to the 12 Traditions, you should probably commit to a Traditions Study for a year or so. But the 6 Warranties – why those? Because, in a very basic sense, these warranties are not warranties to the servants so much as they are warranties to the Fellowship. Bill believed that if we didn't accumulate money and authority in any single place, and especially at the perceived top, Alcoholics Anonymous would surely survive. Upon completing the 12 Concepts, Bill wrote, *"I knew that A.A. was safe at last, even from me"*.

*I can add nothing to that.
A member of A.A. in Orange County*

I had a dream

I had a dream last night about AA. In the dream I shared but was interrupted by someone in the group that said we don't use that "tone" when we share. Taken a back I stopped my sharing and asked what they meant by tone. The person very confidently told me they only shared positive experiences and loving kindness. To myself I thought how very ironic since no wet drunk I've ever met came into AA because of positive experiences. The book says we share what it was like and our experience since coming to AA. Some times to me it seems we are trying to politically AA correct ourselves into oblivion. Some read the Big Book over and over following each word as though it were the Bible, some read only the first 164 pages, some figure even that isn't stern enough and read only the manuscript. Some of the most well-rounded and gently spoken words I have found intolerant. There are times when the most spiritual words come from a foul-mouth drunk, to me that's just a fact. Some don the cloak of spirituality to impose their will on others, giving the impression they are above the fray.

Every day I wake up an alcoholic and a human being with all the flaws and failings that entails. Sometime during the day I try to rededicate my life and ask for help with my flaws but there is no guarantee that they won't creep back at some point. I've been chosen to live a life I could have never dreamed and lived a dream I would have never chosen. Kind words didn't bring me to AA and although I believe in love and tolerance, I believe honesty in what we say and how we say it is very important. It's my hope the program of Alcoholics Anonymous shows not thru my incredibly loving tone but how God overcomes my flaws enabling me to serve him and my fellows. Remember we're on a path, not a tunnel and listen not so much for the music but the language of the heart. Think about this the next time you're ready to interrupt someone's sharing, it might be me!

*God bless,
an anonymous member from Los Angeles County*

Tradition 12 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that: ... we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Online Discussion Forum

The latest discussion topic has been posted to the Mid-Southern California Area Assembly's online forum. The question being asked is, "If General Service is truly A.A. Service Work, why aren't more groups represented at the Area Assembly by General Service Representatives (G.S.R.s)?" When you go to the Mid-Southern California Area website, <http://www.msca09aa.org/>, you will see a link named "On-Line Forum of Area 9". Click on this and you will see the two forum topics posted so far. You may still submit postings addressing Topic #1, or you may submit a posting addressing Topic #2. Please take the time to contribute to the discussion. When you click on Topic #2, you will be taken to a page that gives some background on the question and presents you with several questions to which you may choose to respond. Or, you may submit a response that is not covered by the questions.

Lastly, please keep in mind the guidelines for the forum discussion: All email addresses and last names will be omitted. Please submit only messages that are in keeping with AA principles. Please keep your postings to under 500 words.

Points of decorum for the discussion forum:

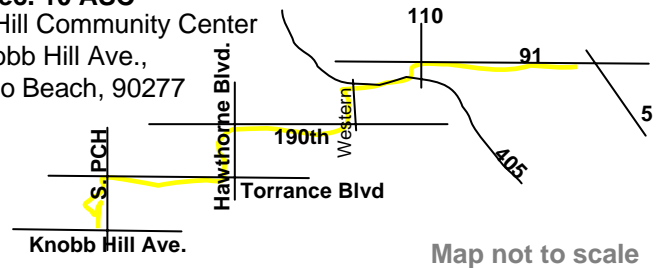
- No names will be posted .
- No entries which attack or criticize another person will be posted.
- No entries mentioning outside issues in a controversial or provocative manner will be posted.
- No entries containing profanity will be posted.
- Entries found objectionable by 2/3 of the EMSC will not be posted.

Tradition Eleven (Long Form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that: ... our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

ASC, Dec. 10 ASC

Knobb Hill Community Center
320 Knobb Hill Ave.,
Redondo Beach, 90277



Directions: From the 57 fwy at the 91 fwy: Head west on the CA-91 W toward LOS ANGELES.23.7 mi.

8: Merge onto I-405 N toward SANTA MONICA.2.7 miles

9: Take the WESTERN AVE exit.0.3 miles

10: Turn LEFT onto S WESTERN AVE / CA-213.0.1 miles

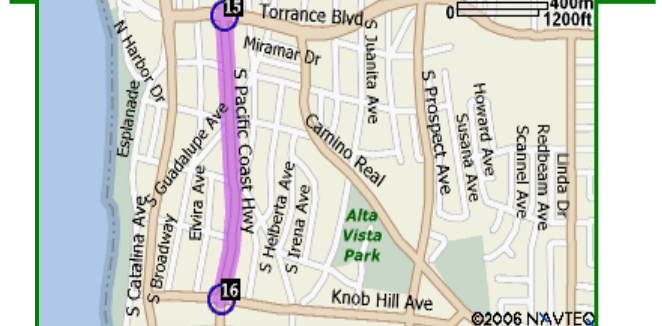
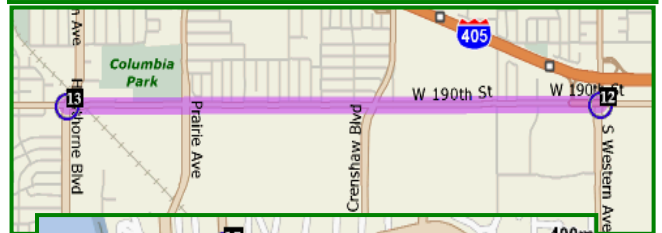
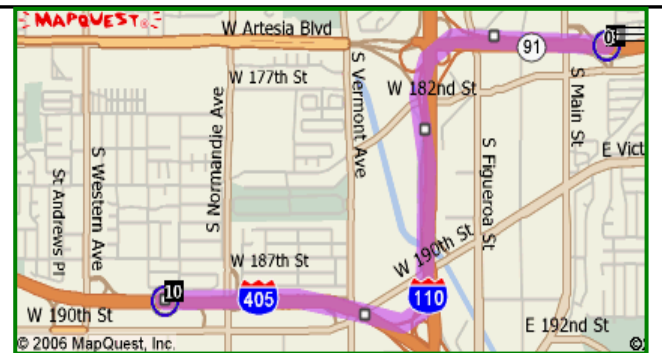
11: Turn RIGHT onto W 190TH ST.2.5 miles

12: Turn LEFT onto HAWTHORNE BLVD / CA-107 S.1.4 mi.

13: Turn RIGHT onto TORRANCE BLVD.1.8 miles

14: Turn LEFT onto S PACIFIC COAST HWY / CA-1.0.6 mi.

15: Turn RIGHT onto KNOB HILL AVE.<0.1 miles



District 5 Service Appreciation Review

Every year (at least for the last 5 years) MSCA 09 District 5 holds a Service Appreciation evening within the normal monthly General Service meeting. The purpose of the event is two fold--1) To bring in speakers who have a vast experience in many forms of AA service, having them share their experience, strength and hope that has kept them sober; and 2) to give the newcomer and guest to the district meeting a chance to find out a little bit about being in service and an opportunity to meet the district committee members and get a free dinner. The key of course is the FREE dinner since no AA member ever turns away free food. This past Nov. 9th over 50 people attended the meeting of which 25 were a guest, visitor, or a NEW general service representative. District 5 was able to get Carlos M. (past MSCA 09 officer) and Lew D. (OC Intergroup Chair/ past OC H&I Chair) to come over and talk about their experience in service and about finding their nitch in the avenue of service that they each had gotten involved in. With over 25 years combined involvement in many different forms of AA service- from general service to intergroup to hospitals and institutions- the love of service was apparent and able to invoke memories among many in attendance. District 5 would like to thank all that were in attendance and hope that those that missed can make it next year.

*In Service,
A member of AA*

The MSCA Assembly includes permanent committees responsible for conducting much of the AA business activity in the Area. We have Standing and Coordinate Committees. Chairs and cochairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B	Literature Cochair, Spanish
CEC...Michael M	...Cesar F
CPC...Ernesto M	Newsletter Chair...Russ D
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd	Newsletter Cochair,
Convention Liaison...Gary M	Spanish...Raul C
Convention Liaison,	Public Information
Spanish...tbd	Chair...Linda H
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Public Information,
DCM School...Jim B	Spanish...Damien
DCM School Spanish	Registration...Ben
Cochair.....	Special Needs Chair...Rich
Electronic Media Sub-	W
Committee...Nick M	Special Needs Cochair,
Finance Chair...Joseph M	Spanish....vacant
Grapevine Chair...Linda C	Translation... Jesus O
La Vina Chair...Francisco D	Treatment Facilities
GSR School...Scott R	Chair...Phil L
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A	Webservant...Nancy R
Literature Chair...Patrick C	Sound Dude...Joseph M
Coffee person...vacant	

Upcoming Events

- Dec.10 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Host: District 1). Knobb Hill Community Center, 320 Knobb Hill, Redondo Beach, 90277 *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*
- Jan. 14, **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Host: District 11) Hutton Center, 660 W. Colton, Ave., Colton, CA 92324
- Feb. 11 ASC (District 2) *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*
- Mar 11 ASC (District 9) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*
- Apr. 1 Archives Open House, Riverside
- Apr. 15 **Pre-Conf. Workshop (GSRs vote** their groups' conscience) (District 15), Ebell Club, **313 Laguna Road, Fullerton, CA 92632**
- May 20 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District 6)
- June 10 ASC (District 19) *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*
- Jul 8 Foro (Districts 4 and 21)
- Aug 12 ASC (District 14) *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*
- Sep 9 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (District12)
- Oct. 6 Heritage Day
- Oct 14 Assembly (District 8)
- Nov. 3 Servathon
- Nov. 11 ASC *(The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them)*
- Dec. 9 ASC, *(The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda)*

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

- 9:30 am....GSR School
- 9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session
- 10:15 am....Committees meet
- 11:30 am.....Lunch
- Noon... **Main Meeting** (which normally includes introductions of new GSRs, Area officers' reports, presentation/ discussion/ voting on proposals, committee reports, other reports)
- 3:30...Adjournment

Panel 56 Area Officers

Chairperson: Craig S, chair@msca09aa.org
 Delegate: Bruce H, delegate@msca09aa.org
 Alt. Delegate: Joe B, altdelegate@msca09aa.org
 Secretary: Oscar G, secretary@msca09aa.org
 Treasurer: Mike M, treasurer@msca09aa.org
 Registrar: Jason S, registrar@msca09aa.org