

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.

January 2006

“Have We Lost Our Singleness of Purpose?”

by Scott R

The Washingtonian's and the Oxford Groups are prime examples of two entities that lost their way because they got into so many other things, instead of staying focused on their primary singleness of purpose. It has been stated that if AA gets destroyed it will be destroyed from within. The steps in part, help keep us together, the traditions help keep this program from following the same paths as the Washingtonian's, and the Oxford Groups of the past.

We, as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, have an obligation to teach the newcomer about every aspect of this program, and that includes those 12 principles that the “quote/unquote” drug addict does not want to hear, because he or she can not talk about drugs in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. That is why there are 12 step programs, all over the place for whatever ails you. We also have a pamphlet that I am sure most people have either not seen, or even taken the time to read. Even if they have seen it, they toss it aside because it does not say what they want to hear. The pamphlet is called "Problems Other Than Alcohol." In this conference approved piece of literature one of the questions asks, “can an addict be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous?” The answer is no. In another part it says, “can an addict be a member of AA who has an alcohol problem?” The answer is yes as long as his primary problem is freedom from alcohol. In our third tradition, it states that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided they have no other affiliation. In addition, of course do not forget Tradition 5, the groups primary purpose is to help the Alcoholic that still suffers, I was told years ago that when you stand for the traditions be prepared to stand alone.

Well there are a lot of us that are standing alone, because we believe in what Alcoholics Anonymous is, and what it does for a drunk like me. One of the most irresponsible statements that I keep hearing is “A Drug is a Drug is a Drug” that is a very dangerous statement because they are not the same thing, I want AA to be

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Principle of Rotation

by Bruce H

As I rotate out as the Chairperson of Area 9, I thought it might be a good idea to reflect on this principle before I rotate in as the Delegate for Panel 56. As the chairperson I have learned a lot of valuable lessons. Some of these happened fast and some came slowly. However there is no way I would have traded these valuable lessons in for any other experience. First of all, I found the real extent of “practicing love and tolerance of others is our code”. Then, that there is no wrong or right way to be Chair, When in doubt, always turn to the Service Manual or the experience of other Area Chairs, past or present. Also a loving God is probably more important than anything else. I found that my style may not work for another Chair ... sort of like when you sponsor that newcomer, every case or situation has to be handled differently. I also always had to be cautious not to step on the toes of others. That principle had to be done with a sense of humor; Rule 62 was always on my mind.

Now as I rotate, a new person steps into this long line of trusted servants, and I am sure he will do a fabulous job. My only wish, and I know it will be achieved, is to treat him with love and respect. If I could put one highlight on the last 2 years, and really there are too many to mention, that one would be the love and tolerance shown by wife Linda in dealing with my quirks and moods.

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Tradition 1 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

Concept 1 (long form)

The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

...Singleness of Purpose ...continued from col. 1, page 1

here for my children, and my grandchildren if they ever need it, but that will not happen if we do not stay focused on that primary spiritual aim, that our big book tells us, and the program teaches us. We need to remember that there is that pure alcoholic still out there, some of you may not believe that, but he's still there, and if he walks into a room of AA and all he hears is how somebody slams a needle into his arm he will say, "I do not belong here," and turns around, and walks away. It is not just him that loses, it's us too. If you do not understand what an open and closed meeting is, read the AA Group. An open meeting does not mean that it is a free for all, and anyone can share. I walked away from my home group because they got away from the singleness of purpose, so if you have a meeting that you are allowing anybody to participate in that meeting, look at that because what you are teaching people is that it's ok. Then you have someone that will take it to another meeting because they were not educated, this is how it affects other groups and AA as a whole.

So when I get called a traditions "thumper," or the traditions "police," I take that as a compliment, that means we who are called those things are doing our job to uphold these traditions, and because we care. Therefore, if there is a meeting out there that is doing those things call yourself anything else, but do not call yourself AA.

In conclusion, read the long form of the traditions; it gets into more detail of what this is all about. When people just read the short form that is all they know. Remember, we can not transmit something we haven't got. So for those of you that jump all over the "quote/unquote" tradition "thumper," investigate and find out why people like me do what we do.

Scott R, Anaheim, Panel 54 DCMC District 10

2006 General Service Conference

April 23-28, 2006

The 56th Conference theme is "Sponsorship, Service and Self Support in a Changing World." Conference agenda items may be submitted by any member or group: the submission deadline will likely be January 14, 2006. The 2006 Workshop topics will be on "Passing it On in a Changing World".

...Principle of Rotation ... continued from col. 2, page 1

Now as I step down in that inverted triangle, I am truly looking forward to serving AA and MSCA as the Delegate. I know I have some big shoes to fill in the Trusted Servants who preceded me all the way back to 1958 as your Delegate. However, I will give nothing short of 110% with the full knowledge that I am now at the bottom of the inverted Triangle. I am sure that you will continue to let me know that, with love and kindness. Rotation always has its challenges, but I know that I never have to do this alone ... like when I came into AA, I was told I do not have to do sobriety by myself either. Fresh faces and new ideas are what will make the next 2 years an experience that I will never forget. So lets all gather up and make this journey one for the ages, always keeping in sight the goal of how to best carry the message of AA to that alcoholic laying in the streets of Santa Ana or locked up with a bottle in some apartment in Hermosa Beach. Let's be united in this common goal as we rotate into our new sober experience. Now the most important principle learned in rotation: Let's be brief, be honest, and let's be seated. Goodnight my special friends.

Love thru Service, Bruce H

PRAASA 2006

PRAASA (Pacific Region AA Service Assembly is attended by GSRs and other AAs from the 9 most western states in the U.S. At this Assembly, we share experience, strength and hope about being a GSR, providing General Service, etc. We strongly encourage all GSRs to attend.

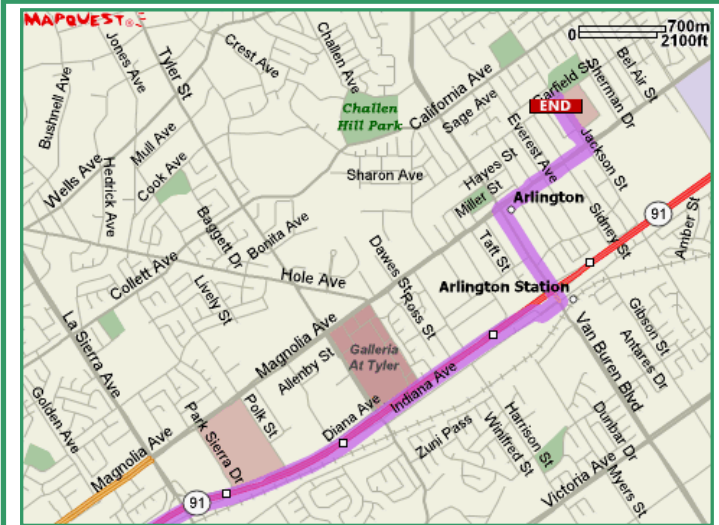
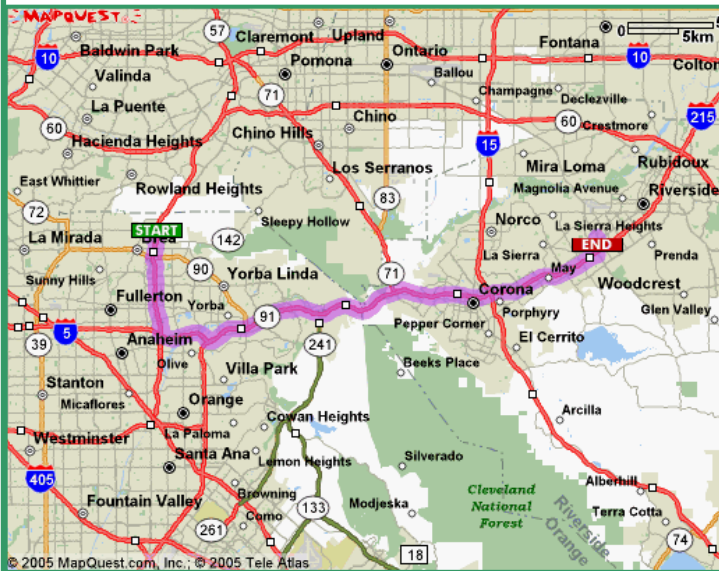
This year, PRAASA will be held on March 3, 4 and 5, 2006 at the Warner Center Marriot, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. More information can be found on the praasa.org website (note that the mention of the praasa.org website in this newsletter does not imply any endorsement, approval or oversight of the site by the MSCA. This information is provided only as information to our readers.).

PRAASA link & reg. form online

AA members can now download the PRAASA registration form from our MSCA website. In addition, AA members can now be linked to the PRAASA.org website from the MSCA website.

January 8, 2006 MSCA Assembly

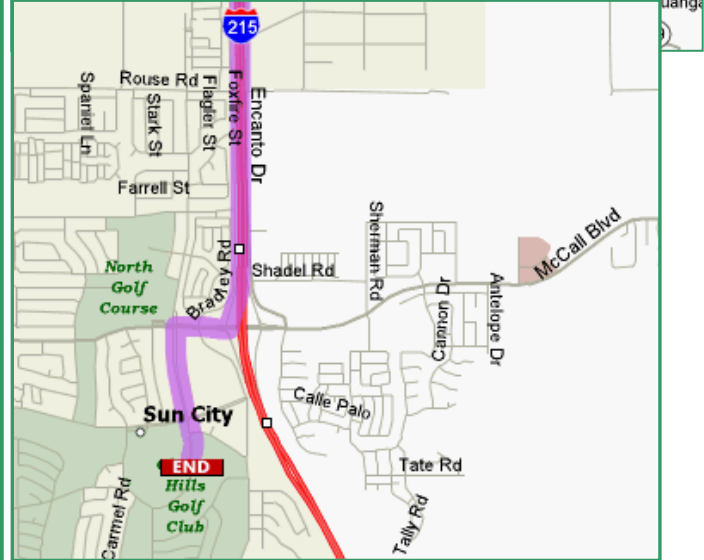
Hunt Park, 4015 Jackson St., Riverside, CA 92503



Directions: Take the 91 Freeway to Riverside, to the Van Buren Blvd exit. Go north on Van Buren half a mile. Turn right onto Magnolia Ave and drive half a mile. Turn left onto Jackson St. Drive 0.2 miles

Feb. 12, 2006, MSCA ASC Meeting

26850 Sun City Blvd., Sun City, CA 92586-2948

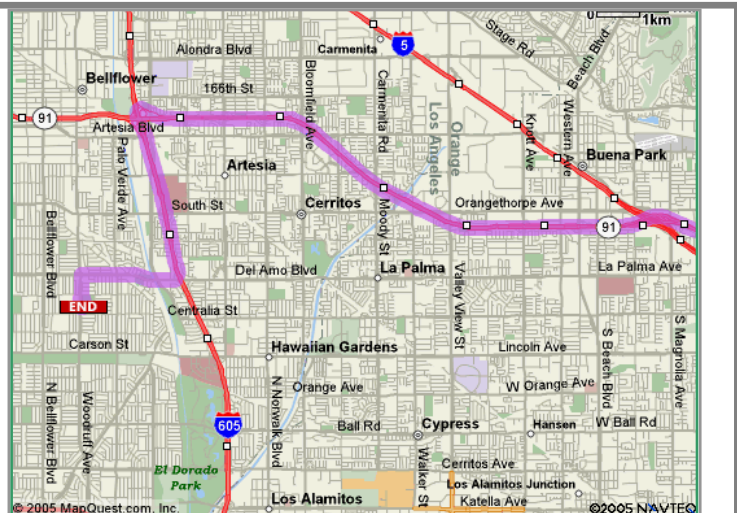


Directions: From Orange County: Take CA-60 E toward Pomona/ Riverside. Take I-215 S toward San Diego/Eastridge Ave./Eucalyptus Ave and drive 17.4 miles. Take the McCall Blvd exit toward Sun City. Drive .3 mi. Turn right onto McCall Blvd. Drive .2 mi. Turn left onto Sun City Blvd. Drive half a mile

Feb. 11, 2006 4-Area DCM Sharing Session

4658 Woodruff Ave, Lakewood, CA 90713-2500

Directions from the East: Take CA-91 W from the 5 Freeway. Merge onto I-605 S. (2.7 miles). Take the DEL AMO BLVD exit toward LAKEWOOD. (0.2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto DEL AMO BLVD. (1.2 miles). Turn LEFT onto WOODRUFF AVE. (0.4 miles). Turn LEFT onto HENRILEE ST. (<0.1 miles). Turn LEFT onto WOODRUFF AVE. (<0.1 miles). End at **4658 Woodruff Ave, Lakewood, CA 90713-2500, US.**



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

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 54 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al. (Note: We will be electing our Panel 56 Committee Chairs and Cochairs at the Jan. 8, 2006 Assembly)

Archives Chair...Pete B	Literature Chair...Craig S
Archives Cochair...Ron E	Literature Cochair, Spanish
CEC...Michael M	...vacant
CPC...Maggie R	Treatment Facilities
CPC Cochair, Spanish...Miguel M	Chair...Patrick S
Convention Liaison...Jason S	Newsletter Chair...Nancy R
Convention Liaison, Spanish..Arturo F	Newsletter Cochair, Spanish...Jesus O
Corrections Chair...Alex N	Public Information
DCM School...Phil L	Chair...Christine S
Electronic Media...Nick M	Public Information, Spanish...Luciano P
Finance Chair...Mike M	Registration...Henry B
Grapevine Chair...Melissa B	Special Needs Chair...Nancy B
La Vina Chair...Raul C	Special Needs Cochair, Spanish..vacant
GSR School...Jim B	
GSR School, Spanish...Felipe G	

Archivist...Charles K

Audio Equipment...Joseph M

Panel 56 Area Officers

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

Upcoming Events

Jan. 8 (Sun.), 2006 **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (host Dist.23), Hunt Park, Jackson & Garfield in Riverside. At this assembly, we will be electing our Panel 56 Area 9 Standing Committee Chairs.

Feb. 11 (Sat.), 4-Area DCM Sharing Session, Youth Center Activity Room, 4658 Woodruff Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90713, from 9 am until 4 pm

Feb. 12 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Hosted by District 17), 26850 Sun City Blvd, Sun City, CA

Mar. 3, 4, and 5...PRAASA 2006, 21850 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Mar. 12 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 21), Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St., Long Beach, CA 90810

Apr. 2 (Sun.) Archives Open House

Apr. 9 (Sun.) **Pre-Conference Workshop (GSRs vote)** their group consciences on the Conference issues) (Dist 10)

May 14 (Sun.) **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Dist. 18)

June 11 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist.22)

July 9 (Sun.) Foro do MSCA (Dists 5 & 20)

Aug. 13 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 7)

Sept. 10 (Sun.) **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Dist. 4)

Oct. 8 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist. 24)

Oct. 15 (Sun.) Heritage Day

Nov. 11 (Sat.) Servathon (Dist 30)

Dec.10 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 1)

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to newsletter@msca09aa.org