



# 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](http://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.

June 2006

## Assembly approves On-line Forum

The MSCA Assembly voted on May 14, 2006, to authorize the EMSC (Electronic Media Sub-Committee) to host an Online Discussion Forum (for a trial period which will last through January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007). This Forum will provide the MSCA with an additional capability to discuss issues which face Area 9 and/or AA as a whole. The forum topics and the discussions on each

*...continued on page 2, col. 1*

## Unity, part of our three legacies

Our three legacies are Recovery, Unity and Service. Without one we can't have the other two. I need other alcoholics to recover with and share with. We need each other to do what we can't do alone. The steps provide us a way out of the hell we endured as alcoholics and that is our first legacy, recovery. There had to be someone here before we got here to provide us with their experience, strength and hope. All I do

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## Thanks for the Memories

*By Linda H*

...and there were many—meeting alcoholics from the US & Canada every morning in the Hospitality Room. I went to New York thinking I wouldn't have enough to do, but there was always something going on for the Delegate's guest. The plan was to keep us busy so the Delegates, Trustees could get the work of the 56th General Service Conference done.

Except for a dinner before the General Service Conference started followed by ice cream at the Stardust Diner on Broadway, which is like going to a casual 1960's rock 'n roll sing a long. Where Bruce & I were together having FUN! Who said we were 'a glum lot'.

*...continued on page 4, col. 1*

## CEC Committee brings AA meeting to Elders in Assisted Living Home

In order to make it easier for elder alcoholics to attend needed AA meetings, the MSCA CEC (Cooperation with the Elder Community) Committee is starting a new AA meeting at an Assisted Living Facility in Long Beach. If you are interested in helping or attending this meeting, please contact the CEC Chair.

## Delegate's Corner, June 2006

*By Bruce H*

I have decided as your Delegate to set what will be known as the Delegate's Corner to cover some points of interest to the Fellowship of AA in Mid Southern Calif Area 09.

Since this newsletter article will be out around the 1st of June, I am just starting to do my report backs to the districts. So far, so good, as if this alcoholic should expect anything but the best. I hopefully did not bore anyone on May 14th with my report. I will do my best to mix my reports up at the district level. I also encourage others to write articles for the newsletter, it just seems the art of writing has disappeared from the fellowship. I still remember the amazing stat from the Grapevine survey where 65% of either the current or past readers do not have the time to read it now. Well enough for my rant of the month.

I hope if any sees a friend of AA who might consider applying for the Class A Trustee vacancy they let me know so I can get them the details. The deadline is June 30th for their resume to be at your General Service Office. Again thanks for your contributions in regards to the Native American Forum in Banning. I am really happy to report that our new Regional Trustee, Madeleine P, has been overwhelmed by the love and support that she has received from this Area and AA members in other Areas.

I need everyone's feedback on the question of whether a Class B Trustee should be considered as possible Chairperson of the General Service Board. Any questions or feedback can be forwarded to me at [delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegate@msca09aa.org), or call me after 7pm. Gentle reminder about the Regional Forum in Seattle June 23-25, and the Spanish Foro on July 9th in Garden Grove.

I would also like to wish our outgoing secretary well as she moves on to her new journey in AA, we all wish you well and you will always have a home in Area 9. Your dedicated love and service will be missed, God's speed Melissa.

*Love thru Service, Bruce H*

## Archives Committee minutes on Website

The MSCA Archives Committee is now posting the minutes of its committee meetings on our MSCA website (on their Archives Committee Page).

topic will be visible to all on our MSCA website. All MSCA trusted servants and Standing Committees are encouraged to suggest topics for these discussions. Topics will then be selected and approved by the EMSC. In the time frame leading up to the annual General Service Conference, the EMSC will customarily post topics regarding items on the General Service Conference agenda. The forum will be governed by the content guidelines outlined in the MSCA Newsletter Committee Guidelines (e.g. will conform to traditions and concepts, will not break anonymity, etc.). All forum entries will be reviewed by the EMSC for content prior to posting to the forum. Additionally, the following points of decorum will be observed:

- 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.

The time frame for which any topic is open for posting will be determined by vote of the EMSC. All discussion topics and the postings will be archived and available for viewing on the EMSC webpage for a period not less than one year.

### CONCEPT VI

*The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.*

Now, wait a minute, you say! All along you have been telling us that the Groups are the boss. This concept says, flat out, that the General Service Board has “*chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters*”. That sounds an awful lot like a definition of “boss”.

The 12 Concepts For World Service, when taken as a whole, define legal authority as opposed to practical authority. Because the General Service Board, through its charter, is a legal entity, it must be governed by legal language. This language gives the General Service Board the chief initiative and active responsibility listed in this Concept.

Bill W. basically set up the A.A. Service Structure along the lines of a corporation. In Bill's essays on the 12 Concepts, found in the A.A. Service Manual, he outlines his reasons for choosing that structure, as opposed to an institutional or government-like structure (the what!? That's right, we actually have An A.A. Service Manual – check it out at the Central Office, or online at aa.org under SERVICES FOR MEMBERS). However, and this is vital to the working relationship between the General Service Conference and the General Service Board, the Board has always realized

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that the practical authority held by the Conference grants the power of a *final decision* to the Conference. The Board has NEVER vetoed or over-ruled the Conference. And we'll see why in the following report on Concept VII.

*An Anonymous Member of AA in Orange County*

### Concept VII – Legal vs Traditional Authority

*Concept VII (short form) The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.*

This concept spells out the exact relationship of the General Service Board to the General Service Conference, and therefore to the A.A. Groups. It says that the General Service Board, out of necessity, is given legal authority, through the Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board, (whoa, doesn't that sound like legal terminology!) to manage the affairs of the General Service Office and the two legal corporations – Alcoholics Anonymous World Service (AAWS) and the A.A. Grapevine. I can hear you now, “Hey, you told us earlier that the Groups are in charge. This sounds like some board of trustees is making all the decisions”. Please read past the semi-colon.

The concept goes on to say that the General Service Conference, representing the Groups, relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness. In the long form, it is much more descriptive – it says that the General Service Conference “.... relies instead upon the **force** of tradition and the **power** of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness” (Italics, bolding and underlining added by author). Looking especially at Traditions 2 and 9, we see that the **ultimate** authority comes from the Group conscience, and that the Service Boards and Committees are directly responsible to those they serve. This is the force of tradition spelled out in this concept.

But what about the *power of the purse*, what is that? In the power of the purse lies the ultimate power, one that has never had to be used on a massive scale. This is where the Groups simply withhold their voluntary contributions to the General Service Office, (G.S.O.) because they believe that the General Service Board, or the General Service Conference has grossly erred in their decision(s). Without voluntary group contributions, G.S.O. would cease to operate. Strong medicine, indeed!

It should be evident that the *power of the purse* works at all levels of service, G.S.O., the District Committee, the Area Assembly, Central Office and the Hospitals & Institutions Committee. All service boards and committees must remember that the A.A. Groups hold the purse strings. The consequences of ignoring this power invested in the A.A. Groups are dire.

*A member of A.A. in Orange County*

today is shaped by what Alcoholics Anonymous did and does for me. When I came to AA you couldn't call me a bigot because I hated everyone and everything, you gave me love and tolerance. Strangers told me to "keep coming back" when I didn't even want to be there. Your actions taught me to believe in the principles of AA and trust my higher power as expressed in our group conscience. I think it no mistake our first tradition states: " Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of the great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare comes close afterward." I hope that all of us can agree that AA's common welfare must come first and unity of action should be our goal.

We all have needs, desires, opinions, thoughts that if left unchecked could endanger ourselves and others. I have lots of people that I run things by because I know my thoughts are suspect. This article I showed to a few people in order make sure it expresses my inspiration and my experience rather than my opinion. If we all can agree that our common purpose is to stay sober and carry the message, why can't we agree to do that in a united way as expressed in our Big Book, our twelve traditions and our twelve concepts? Before you rise up from your chair to object, let's do a little personal inventory shall we? I don't always think the group conscience is right but it is the group conscience. Do I put my feelings, my personal desires or opinions before the welfare of the group? Yes it is that simple and that clear-cut. Do I follow personalities rather than the principles of this program? You have taught me that no one is above our steps or traditions and that just because you gave me the "Right of Decision" it can never override those steps and traditions. Just like our three legacy's, the steps, traditions and concepts need each other to function.

Unity is a strange thing, we individuals come together from all types of backgrounds and social strata, yet we unite against our common foe alcoholism. We have many different experiences, sometimes different languages and cultures. Alcoholics Anonymous did for us what we as individuals could not even dream of doing, carry our message across this planet. Remember we did this together, not just as one man or woman at a microphone, but millions of alcoholics standing side by side hands out-stretched. Over twenty years many hands have reached out to me and I owe a debt which I can never fully repay. This year's General Service Conference theme is "Sponsorship, Service and Self-Support in a Changing World". Boy, what an appropriate theme I thought as looked around at all of the differing opinions as to what we should be or not be doing in AA. Some would rewrite the Big Book to better

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reflect the times we are living in, some want to go back to the first printing of the manuscript. I hear a lot about trusting our trusted servants and yet don't we trust those that went before us enough to do what they did? Those blasted traditions protect AA from people just like me. I'm selfish and self-centered and think it would be a lot easier if you just did it my way! Thank God for those traditions like anonymity that keeps my head from getting so big that it explodes!

It is my honor and privilege to serve MSCA as your treasurer but I've learned thru hard experience that before I try to reinvent the wheel, I better check to see if someone already had a better idea. My father-in-law always likes to say that to change is not always to improve but without change there can be no improvement. Change for the sake of change isn't improvement. Alcoholics Anonymous works slowly to make sure every voice is heard, minority opinions voiced, best ideas put forward and what is best for the whole comes first. We don't always agree on what is best for AA and our groups but we should at least agree to disagree in a civil manner. If we can't do that who do we serve but ourselves? I am willing to go anywhere, to any length to carry the message but I won't violate the steps, traditions or concepts to do so. I love AA and hope in the future many united hands are there as they were for me. It should always be about principles and not personalities. Our three legacies ensure that we along with those yet unborn will enjoy the fruits of the tree planted by Bill and Bob.

*In Love and Service, Mike M.*

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### **Congratulations, Damien!**

Congratulations on your election to the position of MSCA PI (Public Information) Committee Cochair, Spanish.

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### **Delegate's Report on Web**

Our MSCA Delegate's report on his experiences at this year's General Service Conference is now posted on our website, [www.msca09aa.org](http://www.msca09aa.org)

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### **Congratulations, Gilberto!**

Congratulations on being elected MSCA coffee maker!

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### **Want to be notified of web updates?**

If you would like to be notified electronically whenever a new item (e.g. the MSCA newsletter) is posted on our MSCA website, you can be added to our "webinfo" email list by asking our webservant at [webservant@msca09aa.org](mailto:webservant@msca09aa.org). Please include your email address and your service position.

## **Thanks for Memories** ... continued from p.1, col.1

Highlights were the Sunday banquet and getting introduced as a guest; as well as getting reacquainted with old friends from GSO like Eva S., Doug R., Warren, Julio, Hernan and many more. I was privileged to sit at a table with Delegates from Georgia, Alabama & Michigan. We then had our usual breakfast and I & the other guests went onto the Circle Line boat trip around Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Had to buy a Metro Card for a week for subway & bus. Since I signed up for a Yankee game I went shopping for Yankee outfit & hat to wear to the game next night.

Next day went with 3 other alkies to an AA meeting on 46th St., walked to Central Park, by Trump Building & Time Warner Center, started walking toward GSO for the tour and took a cab the last 6-7 New York blocks. Met the Delegates for the tour & sumptuous desserts. I then went off on my own tour and said hello to past staff members, Susan U., & Louis F. As well as introducing myself to Karen of Support Services, when I was Area Registrar and Yvelle who took care of MSCA 09 in records/lists. Then it was off to the Yankee game with 12 other alkies. The Yankees won. The highlight was when the ground crew was doing an uncoordinated version of the song Y.M.C.A. It was hysterical!

I had the privilege of speaking at the 46th St. AA group the following day, had dinner with Valerie, General Manager/GSO-Australia & her husband and Tony H., who served with Bruce when they were appointed committee members. Valerie wanted to go shopping-I think everyone wanted to go shopping! Then we got to go to the Stardust Diner (party of 37+) there was dancing and frivolity as though we were at a bar, but we were sober, tired and having fun!

The Lincoln Center Tour was next on the itinerary-got to see an Opera Rehearsal, Philharmonic Rehearsal and Orchestra Rehearsal for the ballet. Our tour guide said the ballerinas practiced behind the curtains. No pictures were allowed! I did a lot of walking, made lots of friends and the last night we spent together was Chinatown & Eating in Little Italy followed by dessert at Ferrara's on Mulberry St. We came back thru Grand Central Station-what a grand place!

The following morning we all said our goodbyes as some of the people would not be back the following year! (tears) I Picked up an email list and waited for the 56th General Service Conference to end so we could go to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill & Lois and Wit's end where Bill wrote the 12 & 12. We

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laughed with newly made friends from Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and I got to interpret the word "sass" as said in Kentucky to Bruce.

All the Delegates, Trustees, guests and we had to go into Stepping Stones 2 by 2 (like Noah's Ark) same at Wits End. What an emotional experience to see our history. Bought some memorabilia and then made a decision to change buses. This was the coup de grace-we switched buses. The driver didn't speak English and so Francisco translated. We laughed so hard "Francisco does left must mean right in Oakland or in espanol?" We got lost and had to go back and start over again. Francisco (Area 06) was told "your fired", "we're not in Oakland" and a few Canadian phrases that I did not understand and then we were told were "lost again". We weren't but it was Francisco's way of joking back. Then on the way to get the luggage, I ran into the General Manager/GSO-Australia and she gave me a big hug and thanked me for making her feel welcome. I really almost lost it.

For me this was the ultimate of fellowship in action and I thank my high power for my sobriety! This experience was truly a miracle.

*Thru love and service, Linda H., Guest of the Delegate (and Alcoholic)*

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## **Pacific Regional Forum** June 23-25, 2006 in Seattle, Washington

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of the late Chair Emeritus of the General Service Board of Trustees, Dr. Jack Norris (nonalcoholic). They are weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with trusted servants throughout the A.A. service structure.

Forums are intended to be sharing sessions, thus no formal actions result. Forums provide unique opportunities to share and exchange valuable experience, ask questions and spark new ideas. Regional and Special Forums carry A.A.'s message of love and service by improving communication at all levels of our beloved Fellowship.

All AA trusted servants are welcome to attend.

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## **Website gets 167 visits per day in April**

During the month of April, our MSCA website got an average of 167 visits (sessions) per day. During the month of March, it got an average of 179 visits per day.

## Concept VI (long form)

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Tradition 6 (long form)

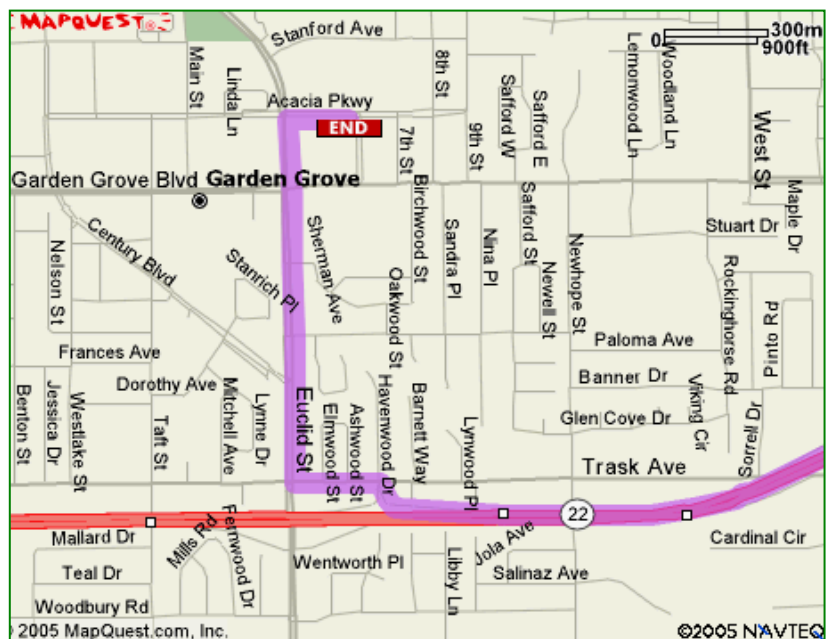
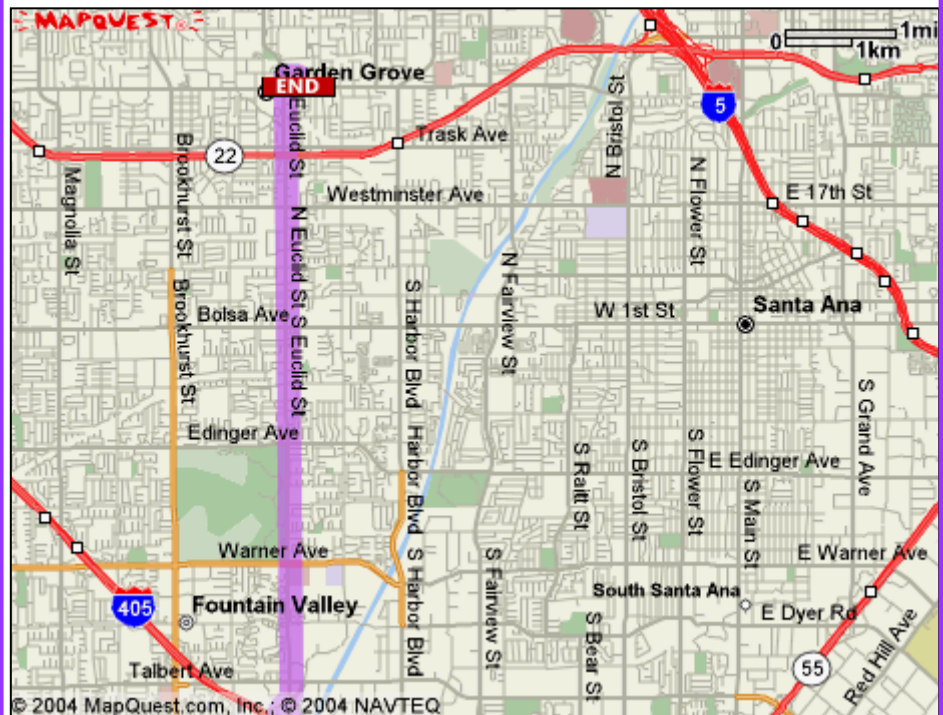
*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

## Foro de MSCA

### “Changing Lives through Service”

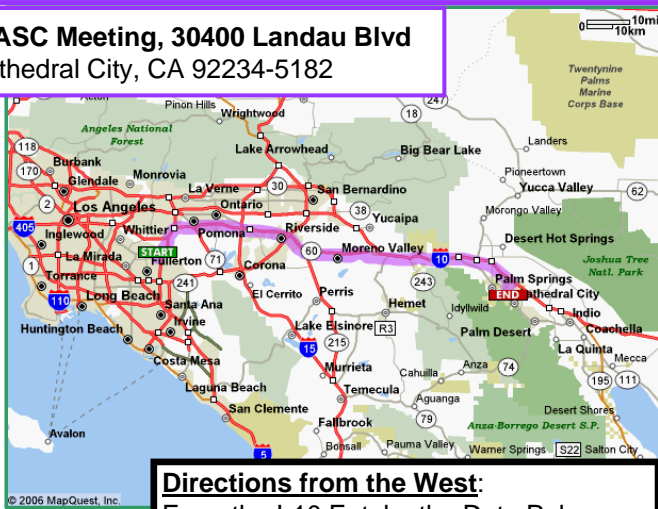
(Hosted by Districts 5 & 20), July 9, 2006, Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove, CA 92840



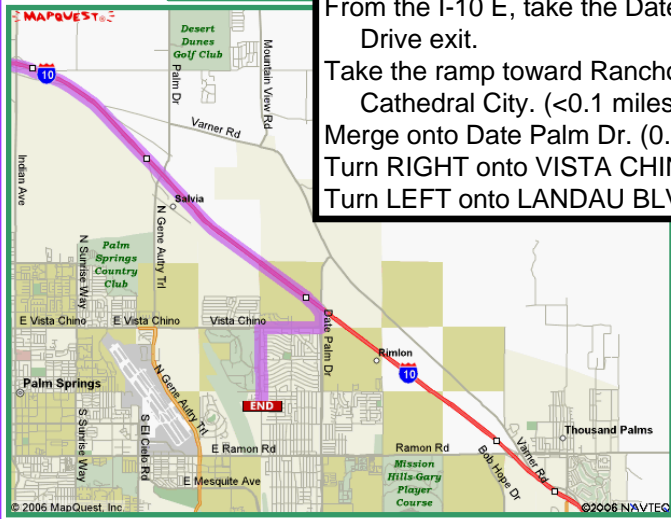
The purpose of the Foro de MSCA is to focus on General Service topics. This task prescribed by the MSCA Guidelines allows Foro planners to select a wide variety of interesting General Service topics for members to discuss. Discussion groups review and report on assigned topics.

Directions: From the CA-22, get off at Euclid St. and go north. Turn RIGHT onto ACACIA PKWY. Drive .0.1 miles.

**June 11 ASC Meeting, 30400 Landau Blvd  
Cathedral City, CA 92234-5182**



**Directions from the West:**  
From the I-10 E, take the Date Palm Drive exit.  
Take the ramp toward Rancho Mirage / Cathedral City. (<0.1 miles).  
Merge onto Date Palm Dr. (0.1 miles).  
Turn RIGHT onto VISTA CHINO (0.9 mi).  
Turn LEFT onto LANDAU BLVD. (1.1 mi).



## Upcoming Events

June 11 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (District.22),  
30400 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City, CA  
92234-5182

June 23-25 Pacific Regional Forum,  
Seattle, Washington. Registration can  
be done on-line at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

July 9 (Sun.) Foro de MSCA (Dists 5 &  
20), 11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden  
Grove, CA 92840, 8 am – 3:45 pm.

Aug. 13 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 7),  
11270 Acacia Parkway, Garden Grove,  
CA 92840

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)

### 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](mailto:chair@msca09aa.org),  
Delegate: Bruce H, [delegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:delegate@msca09aa.org),  
Alt. Delegate: Joe B,  
[altdelegate@msca09aa.org](mailto:altdelegate@msca09aa.org),  
Secretary: Melissa B,  
[secretary@msca09aa.org](mailto:secretary@msca09aa.org),  
Treasurer: Mike M,  
[treasurer@msca09aa.org](mailto:treasurer@msca09aa.org),  
Registrar: Jason S,  
[registrar@msca09aa.org](mailto:registrar@msca09aa.org),

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

Please send articles or information for the Area Newsletter to [newsletter@msca09aa.org](mailto:newsletter@msca09aa.org)