



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

March 2008

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

Getting Along Together

"That's not an AA announcement!" I shouted angrily, frowning at the man across the table.

"Well, why don't you have the party at your house, if you're so g...d... righteous?!?" he shouted back, standing up.

"That's not the point!!" I felt tears coming to my eyes...

"Yes, it is the point," he glared at me. "I can announce *anything* I want that helps a suffering alcoholic get sober and stay sober! And you can't stop me!"

Tears of frustration slipped down my cheeks. "But it's against the Traditions," I whimpered.

Two years sober and a new GSR, I *knew* it wasn't right to announce a party at a sober-living house during AA announcements, but I didn't know what to do or say to be the AA Policeman I thought I was.

Speechless and fuming, I looked around at the others in the meeting: the newcomers were looking at us with wide, frightened eyes. I could read their minds: "*Ohmigod! What have I gotten myself into? Why are they shouting at each other? What, in Heaven's name is going on here?*"

Some sane part of my brain registered that what I was doing was worse than the violation of AA Traditions could ever be. I was violating AA *principles*: principles of inclusion, trust, respect, caring, courtesy and love.

One of the most attractive things I have seen over and over during the 26 years I have been in General Service is the respect, cooperation, generosity, honesty, and civility that has transcended differences of opinion and perspective.

General Service gives us the *opportunity* to learn to get along with each other without calling each other names, impugning each others' motives, pointing out each others' mistakes or defects of character.

Allowing each other to grow and learn, finding the common, underlying devotion to AA that everyone in Service is trying to express, and *celebrating* our shared values, while respectfully debating opinions that differ is a Happy Destiny, indeed.

MSCA 09 Anonymous



Delegate's Corner:

Trusting the Process

In an article I read recently someone wrote "*trusting the process*" which seems to be a rallying cry for many in our area". Really caught my interest. So I thought to my self... what does "*trusting the process*" really means to me? So fancying myself as being sort of a 21st century man; I booted up my computer (I know I could have gone to the book titled Dictionary, but the book doesn't have spell-check) and opened up the largest reference library that I know of, and logged on to the internet. The first place I visited was - ask.com - because after all who you gonna ask?

So I typed in *trust* and then *process* and this is what it told me.

trust (n.): Firm reliance on the integrity, ability, or character of a person or thing

trust (v.) To have or place reliance; depend:

process (n.): A series of actions, changes, or functions bringing about a result:

process (v.) To put through the steps of a prescribed procedure:

(I can't help but wonder if the writer of this dictionary is a friend of Bill's.)

The synonyms (similar words) of *trust* and *process* are;

Trust: Faith, Belief, Hope, Conviction, Confidence, Expectation, Reliance, Dependence

Process: Procedure, Course, Development, Progression, Method, Route, Practice, Course of Action, Manner, Means

When I first came to AA I knew every thing that there was to know about everything. I was just a poor, misunderstood victim of unfortunate circumstance that was just slightly out of my control. I had no home, no car (that worked), and no friends. My family had dumped me (or did I abandon them?) I don't think I had taken my shoes off for over 2 weeks. When I arrived at the doorstep of AA, I was not told that I was not welcome here with you because I smelled, or that I was this confused drunken doper (I thought then that if I could just stop smoking all that speed I could enjoy a cold beer on

...continued p.4, col.1

"50 Years Ago in the AAGrapevine"

Here's an article from the March issue, 1958

AA Around the World

FROM NORWAY

THE KLUBBEN GROUP IN OSLO, NORWAY is sending you and AA in the States a little note with warm greetings.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. It is so difficult to help other alcoholics. My way of helping is to translate AA literature and sending it out to all groups in Norway. I am sending it to non-alcoholics too, who are interested and want to read our great program.

I am grateful to AA, I take one day at the time and therefore I am sober today. I try to do my little bit so good that I can. I am so thankful to the Good Lord's help in translating AA literature to Norwegian; without that help I could not manage it. In a few weeks our members and others will be able to read the pamphlet "This is AA" in Norwegian. In Norway it is the first pamphlet which is translated free. I am telling you this, not for putting myself on a pedestal, but for illustrating that AA work gives me more than sobriety. I have also translated Bill's story from the big book "Alcoholics Anonymous." . . . Our group wants to send it to all groups together with Christmas greetings.

Y. A. Oslo

Disclaimer: SIS is not an MSCA-sponsored event, and is published for those in our Area who might be interested:

3rd Annual A.A. Seniors In Sobriety Conference, Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, California, May 20, 21, 22 & 23, 2008

Featuring: **Meetings, Workshops & Fellowship, Luncheon, Banquet, Speakers, and Entertainment**

Stateroom rate: \$129 (applies 3 days before and 3 days after conference)

Excursions – Long Beach Sites & Avalon (Catalina Island)

Full AI-Anon Participation

This conference will focus on concerns and issues impacting seniors, their spouses and family with both short term and long term sobriety. It will provide an opportunity for alcoholics of all ages to discuss the effects of aging on sober alcoholics and how to help the still-suffering senior alcoholic.

Our history began with a conference in Kona, Hawaii and continued with another in Sedona, Arizona. We intend to use experiences from these events to create yet another highly enjoyable and rewarding conference.

For more information and registration forms, go to **www.2008SISconference.org**

Rotation Again

By the time you read this we will have elected our panel 58 area officers thru the 3rd legacy procedure. My hope and prayers go to these, our trusted servants. None of us is irreplaceable as Bill and Bob knew when they created the whole General Service structure with rotation as a vital principle at every level.

Rotation is one of the most spiritual principals in AA; it is humility in action to give up something we love for the better good. This is part of our experience, strength and hope. I love the expression I heard at PRAASA a few years ago; "rotate up or rotate out". My experience in group commitments and as a GSR, district treasurer, DCMC, FC chair and lastly Area Treasurer, prepared me for the next new experience. A 1985 Grapevine article explains it this way:" DURING EIGHTEEN YEARS of sobriety, I have never heard a single person speak *against* the principle of rotation. I think we all realize it is a vital and unique part of our Fellowship--a safeguard we impose *upon* ourselves to protect the Fellowship *from* ourselves. Everyone--including those servants in their second term like me, who have loved their time of service--seems to agree that rotation is a principle of great spiritual and practical value." It's also no mistake that our 9th tradition says "Rotating leadership is best".

I find little to admire in those who don't rotate or just play musical chairs and rotate sideways, it robs someone of an experience they have themselves already had. Some say if they don't do it, who will? How will we truly know if they won't let go till death or illness forces them to? Some think they are vital to the running of the AA when in truth they are just bad examples of the spirit of rotation. Watching new people take the reins of my home group (Tuesday Nite Crosstalk in Redondo) and grow as leaders reinforces what General Service has taught me. Rotation provides hope for new people that someday they can give back in these service positions what was given them. I trust future generations to make decisions based on what is best for AA as a whole. Men and women I admire have taught me to "pass it on" when I rotate and trust AA to that loving God as expressed in the group conscience. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the life AA and God have given me thru the steps. Yes it is hard to give up these positions we have the privilege to serve in but you have to give it away to keep it! It is my greatest hope that this new panel learn and grow to take advantage of the opportunities that being presented us. To this end I hope you all ask lots of questions and give lots of suggestions. Thank you for the opportunity to be of Service,

Mike M.

Trusting the Process...continued from p.1. col. 2

Sunday watching the ballgame). You showed me tolerance (with a few gentle nudges) until "I" came to realize that everything I did was to enhance my drinking. I realized this not because you told me that was the way I was supposed to be, nor did you make threats of banishing me because I was confused. I was allowed to witness you practicing a course of actions. Hope is what you gave me and trust is what I learned. You laughed with me; You cried with me, we grew up together. I love you all for that.

I came to believe in you. In what you said and what you did. I saw something in you that I wanted, I desperately needed. And all you told me was to just do as you do. So simple, so hard. So I tried. You put me through the steps of a prescribed procedure for recovery from a seemingly hopeless state of body and mind. I am amazed at what has taken place in me and around me because of you. Early in my recovery you taught me about accountability, responsibility and how to read (I was a functional illiterate) when you gave me the job of treasurer at the Area I had never balanced my checking account, I didn't know how. Now I know how to balance my checking account (I'm still working on that cash flow part); you showed me how read spreadsheets, work computer programs, I could go on and on. You never alluded to or suggested that my inexperience was incompetence. You gave me Love.

During this time I have been active with you in general service I have come to understand the importance of my rights in AA (Concepts 3, 4 & 5) mutual trust, equality and my duty to speak up. If I claim these as my rights, I must honor them as your rights too. I know that because I think I'm right, doesn't make you wrong. I am just one voice in the crowd. And within the crowd is the one that presides over us all. (Now tell me; how cool is that?) I am living a dream.

Today; (This sounds corny but it is the truth) the more I learn about AA, the less I know.

So; do I trust in the process? Dam right I do. It works, it really does.

So if the MSCA was to ever have a rallying cry, "Trust the process" would have my vote.

*@yourservice
Joe B.*

MSCA Website traffic

Our MSCA website, www.msca09aa.org, received an average of 225 visitors (sessions) per day in January, 2008. We had an average of 1305 hits per day during that month. The most often viewed page continues to be the "To Find an AA Meeting" page. This is the page that directs people to Central Offices and their AA meeting directories across the entire Mid-Southern California Area..

"Communication & Participation-Our Key to Unity & Self-Support"

This is the theme for the 58th General Service Conference and it is a GREAT TOPIC for this Mid-Southern California Treasurer's first article.

The contributions received from Groups, Districts, Birthday & Conventions are appreciated greatly! Thank you for these contributions!

Contributions help pay to send our Panel 58 Delegate, Joe B., to the General Service Conference in New York, and also helps pay for Area functions and Committee Work; as well as Translators for our Hispanic amigos/amigas.

Communication is Paramount!! If you have a question, please ask. But first do your homework, so there can be a dialogue between GSR's, DCM's, DCMC's, District Chairs, Area Chairs, Area Officers and eventually to the General Service Office!

There is an important question in the "Self-Support" pamphlet which quoted the long form of Tradition Seven! It speaks of concerns for those treasuries that accumulate funds beyond their prudent reserves. Please remember "nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority".

Lastly, thanks for your contributions and all you contribute to Mid-Southern California Area 09.

*Thru love and service,
Linda H., MSCA 09 Treasurer*

Tradition 3 (long form)

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Concept III (Long Form)

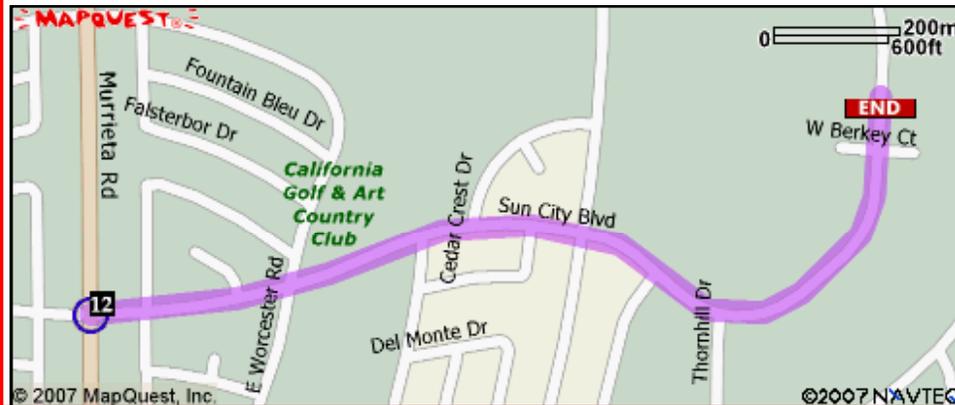
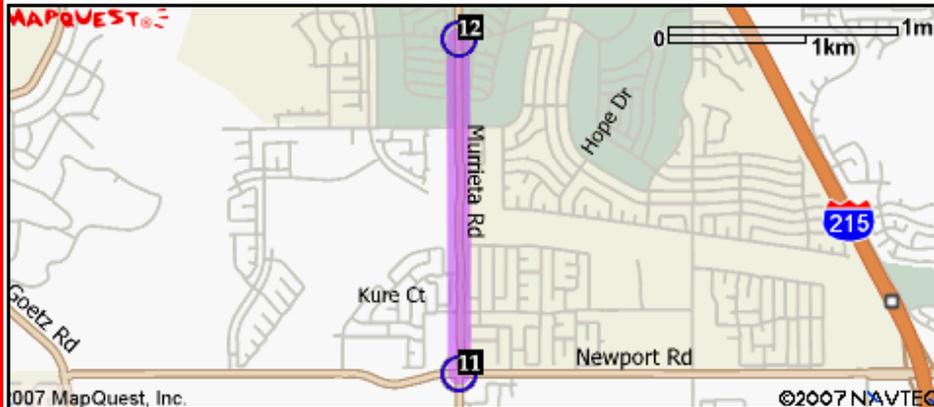
As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

March 16 ASC

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

Directions
From the northeast or the east:
Take I-215 S toward San Diego/East ridge Ave./Eucalyptus Ave.
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.

North Town Hall building* of the Sun City Civic Association



Directions from Orange County:
Take CA-91 E toward RIVERSIDE.
Merge onto I-15 S toward SAN DIEGO.22.5 miles
Take the DIAMOND DRIVE exit toward Railroad Cyn Rd, 0.2 mi.
Turn LEFT onto DIAMOND DR.<0.1 miles.
DIAMOND DR becomes RAILROAD CANYON RD.4.2 miles
RAILROAD CANYON RD becomes GOETZ RD.0.5 miles
Turn RIGHT onto Newport Rd.1.7 mi.
11:Turn LEFT onto MURRIETA RD.1.3 miles
12:Turn RIGHT onto SUN CITY BLVD. 0.9 mi.

