

Mid-Southern California Area 09 Newsletter

Mid-Southern California Area 09 includes approximately 2,000 A.A. Groups in the counties of Los Angeles (south of Rosecrans), San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange



DELEGATE'S CORNER

Greetings from the great state of Alaska. Reporting from a very cold Fairbanks, this is Jeryl T., famed delegate from Area 09, Mid Southern California. I am here to gather information, render opinions, and give a report on one of the many subjects that interest and/or plague our wonderful fellowship currently. I have been blessed by my area to be asked to represent their concern in all of these matters.

Sunny, cold, different... The trees were all golden, preparing for the winter sure to come, and in the not so distant future. People were out trying to grind out the last bit of sun and season prior to the long ice age to come. Thirty-five degrees, and they are wearing tee shirts and shorts. There is a bit of anticipation in the air, and it is mostly from the people about to attend the Pacific Regional Forum, held at the Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks.

The anticipation of what was to be was quickly ignited when the opening panel, which contained Ward Ewing, Chairman of AAWS, Michelle Greenberg, Class A Trustee of Grapevine, and Julio E., GSO Staff Member and Forum Coordinator, as well as Rod B., Pacific Region Trustee, made their way to the mic and gave their opening speeches. Also in attendance either to present, answer questions or just for support were; Billy N., Non-Trustee Director AAWS; Don M., Trustee at Large US; Phyllis H., General Manager AAWS; Ami B., Publisher Grapevine; Don M., Trustee Grapevine; Irene D., Editor La Vina; Ivy Rivera, Assistant Forum Coordinator, Past Trustees; Greg M., Madeline P., Ruth J., and fourteen of the fifteen Pacific Region Delegates. The fifteenth missing delegate was represented by her Alternate Delegate.

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

October 14

*(Proposals are presented; vote
will be taken for Trustee at
Large Candidate)*

Clubhouse Gate 2
24112 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Woods
Hosted by District 12

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Area Servathon

November 11

*(Focuses on various aspects of
service and the Traditions;
roundtable discussions and re-
ports)*

Banning Park
1371 N. Eubank Ave. Wilmington
Hosted by District 21

24th Annual Heritage Day

November 17—Saturday

*(Long-timers tell "what it was
like")*

First Christian Church-109 E.
Wilshire Ave., Fullerton
Hosted by District 10



7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B
 Riverside
 (951) 785-0845
 (Next to the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)

Show Time: Doors open at 7:00
 The movie starts at 7:30.
 Stay after the show and tour the Archives

+ Cartoon

Cost: Free!

Bring your lawn chairs or chaise longue and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater. Refreshments available.

Life Begins at 8:30 (1942)	Saturday, Oct 20
Dark – call for private screening	Saturday, Nov 17
Dark – call for private screening	Saturday, Dec 15
My Name is Bill W. (1989)	Saturday, Jan 19
When Love is Not Enough (2010)	Saturday, Feb 16

3rd Annual Hi-Desert Round Up
Sat. Oct 6, 2012 - 8:30am to 4:30pm
 Yucca Room, Yucca Valley Community Center - 57090 29 Palms Highway
 Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Concept 10 – Jim B., GSR District 6

My first home group was very active with about 65 members. All service positions were eagerly sought after (including General Service Representative) and it took me a year to be elected to coffee maker. I was excited to really be of service to my group with this important position.

I did not know how to make coffee, but previous coffee makers showed me how. I took charge of our three large coffee urns, and our boxes of supplies. The supplies only lasted for two weeks. I went to my sponsor and asked him who was responsible for buying more coffee and supplies.

Henry B., my sponsor, explained to me that it was my responsibility to buy these items and give receipts to the treasurer. I asked where I should go to shop. His reply was, "Anywhere you want." He then passed on to me the wisdom of our 10th Concept:

He told me that I, by the nature of being elected coffee maker, had the responsibility and authority to carry out the duties of coffee maker, in any way I chose. He also explained that this responsibility was extended to stewardship of our groups' money. "Don't buy gourmet coffee. Don't buy fancy cookies," he said. "The group has other money obligations, and it's up to you to keep costs in check."

Responsibility and authority to provide my group with coffee and cookies was mine, along with the additional responsibility, *well defined*, to be fiscally responsible to my group."

CONCEPT X – SHORT FORM

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

DELEGATE'S CORNER (cont. from p. 1)

All in all, there were 197 attendees, 102 of which were first time participants at a Forum. Of those 197 guests, four came from Area 09, and they made their presence known from the start. They participated with a presentation, manned the registration desk, participated in the workshops, and asked questions as well as made helpful statements from the microphone on several occasions. The intimate setting made possible that everyone had a chance to voice feelings and opinions, as well as allowing all to intermingle with the "People From Headquarters." All were accessible and accommodating, and we all had a great time.

Many of us attended local meetings in Fairbanks, and met and socialized with the members there. My first night, I spent three hours with a young local Eskimo, named Art. He had seven days sober, and offered me a ride to a restaurant. We talked way into the evening, as it was still light at 9:00pm, and made a commitment to meet the next day at noon for another meeting. I saw him then, but never again during my trip. However, I was so proud to be a part of an organization that was created for people like him, and that we would bring our Forum to a place where he and others like him could actually touch the hand of the AA of the lower 48, as they call us. I just kept telling him that he was my Eskimo...He had no idea what I was talking about. (I explained that one was the person who brings a person the Program, and the other is the one who brings a bottle of scotch to you at the Greenland ice cap.)

When we held hands and recited the responsibility pledge at the close of the Forum, we all knew we had encountered something we would not soon forget. We delegates also knew this would be the last time we would gather as this group of delegates, as the Panel 61's are rotating out this year, some already had their elections, And that, too, made it an unforgettable experience for me.

I will be making a report at our next ASC this month, and can come to any District that invites me, to make a report about the Forum, or answer any questions you may have about General Service, issues, topics for the 63rd General Service Conference, Area and District issues, or just to come and sit.

Jeryl T., Panel 62 Area 09

39th MSCA 09 SERVATHON

Hi everyone. It is my pleasure to serve as the Alt. Delegate for MSCA 09. One of my responsibilities is to coordinate the Servathon. This year I will be coordinating this in conjunction with District 21. This will be the 39th MSCA 09 Annual Servathon. **The Servathon is designed to showcase the Traditions.** This year we are switching things up a bit. While still adhering to the core purpose of the Traditions, we will be showcasing the Committees of Area 9. This includes the Standing Committees and Coordinate Committees. The Servathon will enable our members to find out a bit more about our Committees and how they work within the Traditions: a showcase of sorts. They will find out what the Committees have been doing so far this year and what their future plans are. I'm excited about the Servathon and hope you will be too. In love and service, Sharon.

How I got into General Service...

by Virginia B.

I was forced to do Orange County Hospital and Institutions (OC H&I) work when I was 3 months sober (not having a clue what was going on).

I was then forced to do General Service when I was 5 months sober by the man who became my sponsor and still is almost 30 years later. He, at that time, was the H&I representative to the OC H&I and always said it was the best job he ever had.

We then met on Memory Lane on the 2nd Sun. in Santa Ana and we always sat w Harbor District because they brought food. There I met my dear friend, P.J., who went on to become Delegate.

It was in General Service that I met the brightest, most articulate, dedicated, committed, passionate and truly fun people I have ever known. I'm still very active in General Service, including at the Area level. It is my joy to carry on the legacy.

As time went on and I had all the posts including District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) for District 7, I had the honor to be present when the first Spanish-speaking district petitioned the area to be included and they were accepted. One of these hard-working men, Manuel, who later went on to be our first Spanish language delegate, gave my oldest grandson (who is now 23) his first haircut in his barber shop on First St., where all the work was done for District 20.

It is my honor to continue to serve and hopefully help to insure AA is here for the most important person who is not the newcomer (they're the lifeblood). We are here to turn the light on for the one who has not yet gotten here.

Officers/Directors Reports

Delegate: Very impressed with the Think Tank discussions, reviewing effectiveness of Area 09 and exploring possibility of establishing a new delegate area. Will attend Regional Forum in Fairbanks, Alaska; distributed final conference reports; new PSA "I Have Hope" in Spanish is in distribution; Spirituality pamphlet in preparation for 63rd GS Conference presentation.

Alt. Delegate: Making visitations to Districts; attended Joshua Tree Convention' preparing for the Area Servathon on Nov. 11, which will showcase committee work.

Registrar: Continues to update information; asked anyone who has changes or new groups to contact him.

Treasurer: Electronic receipts are available to all who want to use them; let Treasurer know. When many groups take advantage of electronic receipts, the Area saves a significant amount of money to be used by other committees.

Chairman: Received a letter from the Trustees' Public Information Committee saying that after review the committee has decided not to take action about changing the wording of Tradition Eleven. However, as there is still so much interest in this issue, they request that any suggestions concerning the wording about anonymity at the public level be forwarded to them for consideration at the 2013 GS Conference.

Secretary: Has discussed GSR duties at Intergroup meetings in addition to information about the upcoming Servathon. Has made several and is available for district and group visitations. He will make certain that the meeting minutes are available on the area website.

New Business

Three proposals were presented for consideration. 1) Finance Committee Guideline changes passed with substantial unanimity. 2) Motion to make the Servathon a bi-annual event failed to pass. 3) Proposed 2013 Calendar passed unanimously. [New motion to replace the November ASC with the Servathon each year was postponed to be considered at two ASCs before consideration by the Assembly

Committee Projects

Note: Members of all committees are available for District and/or Group presentations or visitations by invitation.

Archives: 3rd Sat. each month sorting parties; group history project continues; Archives Workbook committee continues to meet and making progress.

Communications: Newsletter is available by email subscription: just sign up and each issue will be delivered electronically; it can also be downloaded from the MSCA website; Translation committee could use more translators for written material; website has lots of good info.

Conventions: Presence at many conventions and more planned.

Corrections: Still working w/delegate re anonymity situation at Chuckawalla Prison.

DCM School: Reviewed common group registration mistakes, efficiency and cooperation.

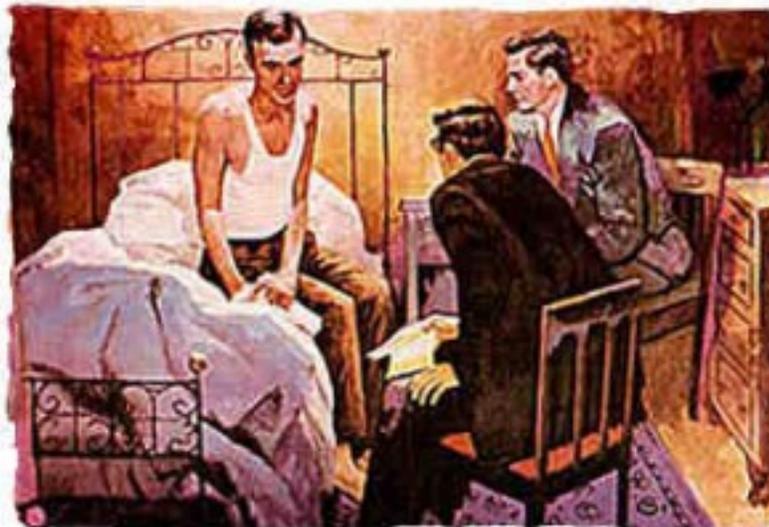
Finance: Budget proposals due that day; preparing for 2013 budget meeting.

Grapevine & La Viña: GV display needs repair; reviewed plans for LV anniversaries; visitations; article writing

GSR School: (Eng.) Reviewed What's It All About Pamphlet; preamble, registration, archives, group histories, reviewed proposals. (Sp) 9th Concept discussion on leadership; past delegate shared experience.

P.I.: Fair in October in Palm Desert; want to find more fairs; distributing new PSAs.

Special Needs: Workshop Sep 27; talking about autistic alcoholics & their needs + mental illness; discussing qualifications of student ASL interpreters.



Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

North Orange County Spanish
Hospitals and Institutions (H&I)
Committee

is

**CELEBRATING 13th
ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE**

*Food will be provided; just show up, eat, fellowship
and listen to H&I speakers.*

**330 N. State College Blvd.,
Suite 207
Anaheim, CA 92805**

“La Viña” – by Leandro C. 16TH ANNIVERSARY – July 28th 2012

In Spanish "La Viña" means "The Vineyard", a place where care, cooperation and hard work result in the healthy growth of grapes. We hope that this "vineyard" full of shared work experience in AA will continue grow and prosper in the years to come. La Viña has achieved an international presence, with subscriptions in over 28 countries. For example, Mexico, Spain, Ecuador, El Salvador, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, Venezuela and Canada, topping the list with the largest number of subscriptions.

But there are also countries with fewer subscriptions, such as Israel, Italy, Sweden and Poland.

So, it still amazes me and makes me wonder where the idea to do away with La Viña is coming from?

- If it is serving our primary purpose carrying the message.
- If it is saving the lives of alcoholics in the Spanish speaking community.

Maybe "La Viña" doesn't make us a lot of money, but it does help us to stay sober. Then, for me there is no monetary price: it is rather a spiritual tool (100% spiritual), like the AA program. Since the beginning La Viña has gone to places we cannot go. Its effectiveness is greater in prisons where 80% of prisoners are there for alcohol related problems. Undoubtedly, these alcoholics need a second chance just like many of us have been given through the AA program.

What was expected until Saturday July 28 was already reaching 75% of our goal. With a total of 70 participants and about 600 subscriptions. Our Area 09 was responsible for 250 subscriptions and over 100 stories. At such times we could feel the significance of the event and especially our primary purpose objective. As our editor, Irene D. was ecstatic because in New York, they were also celebrating the 16th anniversary of our magazine and they were doing the same things we were doing; promoting subscriptions and writing articles.

It was nice to exchange greetings and our words of gratitude to our program. We all discussed the need that many areas have concerning "La Viña" and they now know that they have areas that are willing to step up and share information with them. We spoke in length on the idea of giving life to the group structure and its various service positions, especially the LVR (La Viña Rep). We need to encourage group to elect their LVR (La Vina Rep). In addition, Area 92 Eastern Washington works closely with the Grapevine and is intended to find a way to bring that idea to other areas as much as possible.

The anniversary of La Viña was just the main event. The rest will slowly find it's way into the big picture. This 16th Anniversary was full of surprises. But the biggest surprise happened on Sunday, July 29. There were four areas that had requested to host the 17th anniversary. All of them went into the hat but only area 09 came out as hosting area of the 17th anniversary.

In closing, let me mention a couple of ways we can support La Viña:

- Buy a subscription of La Viña or the Grapevine
- Write story/article to La Viña or the Grapevine

Thank you all for supporting La Viña and we hope you will help and support our efforts as we host the celebration of the 17th Anniversary in 2013.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 14—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

(Proposals are presented: vote for Trustee at Large Candidate)

Clubhouse Gate 2—24112 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods

Hosted by District 12

November 11—Sunday

Servathon

(Focus on various aspects of service and the Traditions; roundtable discussions and reports)

Banning Park—1371 N. Eubank Ave., Wilmington

Hosted by District 21

November 17—Saturday

24th Annual Heritage Day

(Long-timers tell “what it was like”)

First Christian Church-109 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton

(park free in structure across from Church)

Hosted by District 10

December 9—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 7

January 13—Sunday

Area Assembly

Hosted by District 2

February 10—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 17

March 10—Sunday

Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting

Hosted by District 4

April 14—Sunday

Pre-Conference Workshop

Hosted by District 25

Usual Area Meeting Schedule

at most assemblies and ASCs

9:00 a.m.	Delegate’s Sharing
9:00 a.m.	GSR Orientation
9:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Standing Committee Meetings
10:00 a.m.	DCM Orientation
11:15 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 Noon	Area Meeting

Who’s Who?

Officers/Directors

Delegate:	Jeryl T.
Alt. Delegate:	Sharon K.
Chairperson:	Cesar F.
Secretary:	Jesus O.
Treasurer:	Annie D.
Registrar:	Raul C.

Committee

Chairs, Co-Chairs

and other Area Service Positions

Archives (Eng)	Matt W.
Archives (Sp)	(open)
CEC	Patricia P.
Communications	Martin J.
<i>Elec. Media</i>	<i>Kris C.</i>
<i>Elec. Equip</i>	<i>John W.</i>
<i>Translation</i>	<i>Santiago S.</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Linda C.</i>
Convention (Eng)	Lois L.
Convention (Sp)	Mauricio T.
Corrections	Julio I.
CPC (Eng)	Catherine
CPC (Sp)	Jose F.
DCM School (Eng)	Nikki N.
DCM School (Sp)	
Finance	Tina B.
<i>Grapevine</i>	Catherine E.
GSR School (Eng)	Marita H.
GSR School (Sp)	Marcelo C.
<i>La Viña</i>	Paco G.
Literature (Eng)	Scott B.
Literature (Sp)	Martin G.
P.I. (Eng)	Bob D.
P.I. (Sp)	Magdaleno
Registration	Kristin F.
Spec. Needs (Eng)	Jennifer C.
Spec. Needs (Sp)	

Archivist	Pete B.
Coffee	Tony M.
Copier	Jim C.
Sound	Jim B.
Web Coordinator	Rainer F.

“What General Service Means to Me”
Members of Area 09 share experience...

My name is Raul and I'm an alcoholic. I came into the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1980. Around 1975 a close friend of my father's who was a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous carried the message to me. He just passed away this year on June 15, 2012. He saw how I was destroying myself with alcohol so he felt indebted to my father and tried to help me. However, my pride told me that I had the right to enjoy life and that is what I was doing...

I had to surrender to the idea that I could not keep drinking because in those five years I had already lost my job, was about to get divorced and my family of origin did not want to have anything to do with me. This one guy kept talking to me about Alcoholics Anonymous and insisted that I stop drinking. I remained in denial and refused to get help because I was so young then and the first meeting I went to I saw nothing but old people there. I said to myself, *“What have I done? These people have nowhere else to go; they need to be here.”* My pride prevented me from seeing the real problem, so I went out for five more years. That is what it took to convince me that alcohol is not to be played with and I had to go through five more years of hell. Finally, I figured I would try this thing out for a couple of years and decide whether I belonged or not. I stayed in the group for a while to see how things worked. I began to notice the different personalities who wanted to be in control. I soon realized that I needed to get informed through our literature.

One day we had a district visitation and they were only allowed to give a short report. I was leading the meeting by then and the old bleeding deacon in the group told me that they would only be allowed to make an announcement at the end of the meeting. I did what the old timer told me, and the guys from the district made their announcement short and simple. But it was enough to open up my mind. I was never the same after that. I found out about AA as a whole, because up to that point I was so ignorant as to believe that AA was only my little group. The short pitch from the district officers brought up all kinds of questions for me. They talked about a group representative to the district and attendance to area assemblies and the various other events. After that I began to see the need to get involved in general service. I asked for a letter of presentation to the district so I could be the group liaison or GSR as I later came to know. At first, they resisted because it was something new for them, but after a while some of them were willing to listen to what I had to say. The rest still couldn't care less...

I was about to finish my service commitment and I spoke to them about the spirit of rotation. At that point, I was able to move to this country and start over. I looked up a meeting in the yellow pages and they gave me an address. As it turned out, there was group about two blocks from where I worked and I became a member of that group called *Union and Hope/Union y Esperanza*. My sponsor gave me many good suggestions back in my home country. He taught me that each group is autonomous and the first thing I should do is start at the beginning. He told me that just because I had been sober for a few years didn't make me special, I was not cured. So I did just that; someone calls it the ABC's, I started doing *Ashtrays, Broom and Coffee*. Once, I did that for a while I became group liaison to the state convention which I did for five years. Then, I moved to a different part of the city and started going to the local church. I soon found out that one of the priests there was a member of AA; his name was Jim. I got to know him well and one day he suggested I seek a new sponsor in this country and he recommended Amado M.

If anyone remembers Jim and Amado; you know that they loved general service and I soon became a member of Amado's home group in Carson, Ca. I soon became the GSR for that meeting: *Fe y Accion/Faith and Action*. That was how I came to my first area meeting as a new General Service Representative in 1991. Do not think for a minute that it all began in a pink cloud. My new sponsor might qualify more like a service sponsor, but I had yet to learn the difference. That was his legacy to me and to District 21 as a whole.

I wanted to make excuses as to why I couldn't get to the area meeting, etc. But he had heard all the excuses. He told me he'd be waiting for me to pick him up at his house at 7am and earlier if we needed to drive out to Palm Spring or Indio. I started going to area meetings back then and I plan to continue. I remember that at first, there were only a few Hispanics attending area events. Another thing I remember is that we had a communication problem; everything that was discussed was in English and we didn't understand a thing. Luckily, we had a bilingual member at the area and he told us to keep coming back. We didn't know any better and we said to ourselves, "Why not have an area of our own; a Spanish speaking area?" Some of the Hispanic elder statesmen didn't think it was a good idea because we didn't know much about the service structure. Bill W. used to think that the good is the enemy of the better and this was the case here. We wanted to keep being exclusive, not inclusive.

The first Spanish-speaking Area Forum took place on December 13, 1992 in the city of Riverside, as requested by District 23. In those days there were only four Spanish-speaking districts in Area 09, Districts 20, 21, 22 and 23 that put it all together. At the same time there were only a few Hispanic members who came to the area or attended PRAASA, regional forums, the PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOP and the SERVATHON. We invited all the area officers who showed up and subsequently we began working with the second forum. District 21 became the next hosting district. At first, the Hispanic districts would appoint liaisons from each of the districts to help with the planning. Then, things happened that were not in keeping with the 12 steps or traditions. We appointed the Foro chair simply because he had been in AA for a long time.

Back then, we took up collections in all the Spanish-speaking meetings that we went to; and it became a good chunk of money. Pretty soon, the Foro chair became the treasurer, too, and took off with the money! We haven't seen him since. As a result of that incident, the area took the reins of the Foro and made it an area event and all expenses are now covered by the area and partially by the hosting district. The executive committee asked that we formulate some guidelines for the Foro. Manuel Y. (RIP) drew up the guidelines and always insisted that this event was not to be a Hispanic event but an area event.

Although some of us were not very happy, the idea was for us to know more about general service and be one area regardless of language and most of all that we participate. According to the Foro guidelines; the first few forums were all hosted by Hispanic districts. After a few years, they switched to Spanish and English-speaking districts to host the Foro. The executive committee of the area designates two districts that are responsible for the Foro and it is presented in January to be included in the agenda of the year. If a district is not available to host they simply notify the area chair, so that other arrangements can be made.

In each forum there is a theme and a logo and this is distributed by the host districts and then presented at the event like the theme presented at this 21st. Area 09 Foro.

HERITAGE DAY
SATURDAY, NOV. 17
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
HOSTED BY DISTRICT 10
LONG-TIMERS
TELL
“WHAT IT WAS LIKE”

Heritage Day is an annual event presented by Area 09 Archives Committee. The Committee asks for a district's help in hosting the event. This year we are honored to have District 10 as the host district. The purpose of the event is to help preserve our Area's history by interviewing area members with long-term sobriety. The event consists of four long-timers (30 years+) being interviewed on their early experiences in AA.

The event is recorded by the Area Communications Committee.
109 E. WILSHIRE, FULLERTON
 Free parking in structure across the street from the church.



12 x 12 at a meeting in China, 2008

ATTENTION: DISTRICT 15!!
Monthly meeting moved to:
201 N. Bradford, Placentia,
Room 7