

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 2 General Service Conference

**FEBRUARY 2014**  P.O. Box 51446

msca09aa.org Irvine, CA 92619-1446

 AREA 09

UPCOMING EVENTS

DELEGATE’s Corner

 “Welcome Cesar. This is your house, we’ve been expecting you. You can be an AA member if YOU say you are”. Later I realized he was talking to me about Tradition Three in his own way, but from the bottom of his heart. He then added, “If you want and are willing to do whatever it takes to get sober”. I was willing and unknowingly began my journey towards General Service.

 It has been a month now as your delegate and wow! In all the different service positions I had the privilege to serve in-- I’ve never felt what I have experienced at this start of this new journey. Dealing with issues here at home, responsibilities, PRAASA (Pacific Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly), reading and reading more Conference materials and my assigned committee in Public Information. WOW! What an honor and privilege!

 I do it all with love and gratitude, enjoying every minute to the fullest and because of the debt I feel I owe AA. General Service has given me the opportunity to learn to turn on a computer, send an attachment via email, translate agendas, minutes, flyers, event flyers, and more service materials we have in this great Area 09. But I think the debt is still growing through the blessings I get every day from all of you my fellow alcoholics, AA and the God of my understanding.

 Also, this is an opportunity to thank my dear fellow executive board members and the Area chairs for their work and dedication. If you see them out and about, at a District or regular meeting of AA, please thank them because they deserve much respect.

 Let's talk about **PRAASA**. My first attendance was Ogden, Utah, March 2000. Seeing people from the entire Pacific region was somewhat shocking to me; submissions for topics; questions to the panelists; roundtables; camaraderie and jokes; and the coffee meetings in the hallways. What a great experience!

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**March 2**—Sunday

**Special Meeting**

Kaiser Permanente -- Irvine

**March16**—Sunday

Area Service Committee

Hosted by District 1

**April 13**—Sunday

**Pre-Conference Workshop**

Hosted by District 6

**May 18**—Sunday

**Assembly**

**Delegate Conference Report**

Hosted by District 20

**June 8**—Sunday

Area Service Committee

Hosted by District 10

**July 13**—Sunday

**MSCA FORO**

Hosted by Districts 22/09

**August 10**—Sunday

Area Service Committee

Hosted by District 5

**September 14**—Sunday

**Assembly**

Hosted by District 7

**October 12**—Sunday

Area Service Committee

Hosted by District 2

**November 9**—Sunday

**Servathon**

Hosted by District 24

**December 14**—Sunday

Area Service Committee

Hosted by District 17

**A.A. HISTORY FEBRUARY**

**February 1**

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2002: Hal Marley, "Dr. Attitude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.

February 26:

1999: Felicia Gizycka, author of "Stars Don't Fall," died. Born Countess Felicia Gizycka in 1905, she was the daughter of Count Josef Gizycki & Eleanor Medill Patterson. She married Drew Pearson in 1925 & divorced him three years later. She married Dudley DeLavigne in 1934, but the marriage lasted less than a year. In 1958 she married John Kennedy Magruder & divorced him in 1964. For most of her professional career, she

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DELEGATE’s Corner….. Continued from Page 1

 2001 in Spokane, Washington-- I clearly remember the discussion about English and Spanish translation for the event. It was a ‘loving discussion’ because it involved money. But in the end, a decision was reached by group conscience to pay for professional interpreters. What an experience! Later in Irvine, 2004-- Area 09 hosted PRAASA and it was a success! At that time, I was part of the organizing committee and what an honor to be a part of that.

 My sobriety has been enriched through sharing of Group members, GSRs, DCMCs, DCMs, Area Committee Chairs, Area and District officers. All these trusted servants who go to PRAASA every year with a desire to share their experience, strength and hope. I want to encourage you to attend on March 7, 8 and 9, 2014 in San Diego, Area 08-- our neighbors. Let’s go get inspired to be of service! Guaranteed you won't regret it.

  This will be my twelfth time at PRAASA and the first time as our Area delegate. My debt to AA keeps growing. It is an honor for me to serve the fellowship that saved my life. I've enjoyed all my service positions and have much love for Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 09. May God bless you all.

Service is a Legacy of Love,

Cesar F.

Panel 64 Area 09 Delegate

**I Stand at the Door**

**\*\*By Sam Shoemaker (from the Oxford Group)**

**To the religious community, to Episcopalians, and to many citizens, Sam was known and applauded as one of the 10 greatest preachers in America (along with Billy Graham, Norman Vincent Peale, and others). From 1925 and for many years thereafter, Sam was Rector of the Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church in New York. Later he was called to be Rector of the Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh.**

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**I Stand at the Door** ….. Continued from Page 2

**Sam took a special interest in Alcoholics Anonymous and become a good friend of co-founder Bill Wilson. Nonetheless, the Steps (as is the Big Book) are replete with Shoemaker ideas on how to find God, the “turning point,” the Oxford Group life-changing steps (Confidence, Confession, Conviction, Conversion, Continuance), Quiet Time, Spiritual Awakening, prayer, fellowship, conversion and witness, and the need to “pass it on”—a phrase known to all AAs.**

 **Years after the founding of A.A. in 1935, Bill Wilson accorded Shoemaker the singular honor of addressing the A.A. International Conventions in 1955 (St. Louis) and 1960 (Long Beach).**

I stand by the door.
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out.
The door is the most important door in the world -
It is the door through which men walk when they find God.
There is no use my going way inside and staying there,
When so many are still outside and they, as much as I,
Crave to know where the door is.
And all that so many ever find
Is only the wall where the door ought to be.
They creep along the wall like blind men
With outstretched, groping hands,
Feeling for a door, knowing there must be a door,
Yet they never find it.
So I stand by the door.
 The most tremendous thing in the world is for men to find that door - the door to God. The most important thing that any man can do is to take hold of one of those blind, groping hands and put it on the latch - the latch that only clicks and opens to the man's own touch.

 Men die outside the door, as starving beggars die on cold nights in cruel cities in the dead of winter. Die for want of what is within their grasp.
They live on the other side of it - live because they have not found it.
 Nothing else matters compared to helping them find it, and open it, and walk in, and find Him. So I stand by the door.
 Go in great saints; go all the way in - Go way down into the cavernous cellars, and way up into the spacious attics. It is a vast, roomy house, this house where God is. Go into the deepest of hidden casements, of withdrawal, of silence, of sainthood. Some must inhabit those inner rooms and know the depths and heights of God, and call outside to the rest of us how wonderful it is.
 Sometimes I take a deeper look in. Sometimes venture in a little farther, but my place seems closer to the opening. So I stand by the door.

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**I Stand at the Door** ….. Continued from Page 3

 There is another reason why I stand there. Some people get part way in and become afraid Lest God and the zeal of His house devour them; For God is so very great and asks all of us. And these people feel a cosmic claustrophobia
and want to get out. 'Let me out!' they cry. And the people way inside only terrify them more. Somebody must be by the door to tell them that they are spoiled. For the old life, they have seen too much: One taste of God and nothing but God will do any more.
 Somebody must watch for those who have entered the door but would like to run away.

 So for them too, I stand by the door.

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**Inscription from a Plaque on Dr. Bob's desk - which to him best described:**

 **Humility**

     "Perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is

never to be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder at

nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me.

     "It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised, it is to have a blessed home in myself

where I can go in and shut the door and pray to my Father in

secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and about is seeming trouble. "



***Dayton OH Members, 1942***

**Members wore masks: to protect their anonymity,**

**members of the Dayton, Ohio, AA chapter**

**donned masks while posing for the press in 1942.**

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