

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 3 General Service Conference

**MARCH 2014**  P.O. Box 51446

msca09aa.org Irvine, CA 92619-1446

AREA 09

UPCOMING EVENTS

DELEGATE’s Corner

**March 2**—Sunday

A.A.’s 11th Tradition states: "Our public relations policy is

based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and film.”

As your delegate – my assignment at the 64th General Service Conference is to participate in the Committee on Public Information (PI). As a past GSR, I had been involved in PI both at the District and then the Area level.

Panel 64 has already been presented with instances directly relating to our 11th Tradition and the responsibility of PI. I have read a lot of material GSO sent me which included the history of PI. Together with my own personal experience, I have to conclude there is much work to be done.

The past few weeks, your Area officers have visited a few Districts. We have had many service questions but one really stood out. ***What can we do as groups to avoid having anonymity breaks at the level of press or the media?***

There is a wide range of action members can take at the group level regarding anonymity. We have two excellent literature sources: (1) Tradition Eleven – “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions”, Alcoholics Anonymous; and (2) “Understanding Anonymity” – A.A. pamphlet. Group discussion could begin here.

Our fellowship has grown and developed by trial and error; and ‘mistakes’ were and are made. We continue to learn from this. As members of MSCA 09, it is our individual responsibility to be examples – to continue informing our districts and groups, and provide good sponsorship to the newcomer. In the meantime I will keep sending letters, talking to A.A. members, groups, Intergroups and central offices about the great importance of A.A.’s principle of anonymity. GSO/NY annually sends out thousands of letters to the media in an effort to inform the public about our *principle of anonymity*, and at the same time thank them for disseminating

[Continued on Page 2]

**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 MARCH**

**March 1**

1939: Readers Digest failed to write promised article on A.A.

1941: Saturday Evening Post article by Jack Alexander created a national sensation. A.A. membership quadrupled in one year from 2,000 to 8,000.

**March 3**

1947: Nell Wing, Bill's secretary and first archivist of A.A., began her career at Alcoholic Foundation Office at 415 Lexington Avenue.

**March 4**

1891: Lois Wilson was born.

**March 5**

1945: Time Magazine reported Detroit radio broadcasts of A.A. members.

**March 7**

1940: Bill and Lois visited Philadelphia and attended A.A. group.

1941: Boston newspaper reported any drunk who wanted to get well was more than welcome to attend the A.A. meeting at 115 Newbury St., 8 PM Wednesdays.

**March 9**

1941: Wichita Beacon reported on an A.A. member from NY who wanted to form a group in Wichita, Kansas.

**March 10**

1944: New York Intergroup was established.

**March 11**

1947: A Priest in St. Paul, Minnesota, founded Calix International. Alcoholics in his parish met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss readings for the upcoming Sunday and how their faith melded with the Twelve Steps of A.A.

**March 12**

1940: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's boy-hood friend and sponsor, was reported sober again.

**March 14**

1941: South Orange, N.J., A.A. held an anniversary dinner at the Hotel Suburban with Bill Wilson as the guest speaker.

**March 15**

1941: First A.A. group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

February 21:

1939: 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, & others for comment. This was the "multilith" Big Book.

February 22:

1842: Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

February 23:

1959: A.A. granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

February 24:

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

went by the name Felicia Gizycka.

February 28:

1940: First organization meeting of Philadelphia A.A. was held at McCready Huston's room @ 2209 Delancy Street.

Other February happenings for

which we have no specific date:

1908: Bill Wilson made boomerang.

1916: Bill Wilson & sophomore class @ Norwich University was suspended for hazing.

1938: Rockefeller loaned $5,000 to A.A...

1939:

-Dr. Harry Tiebout endorsed A.A., the first psychiatrist to do so.

-Dr. Howard of Montclair, NJ suggests swapping "you musts" for "we ought" in the Big Book.

1940: 1st A.A. clubhouse opened @ 334-1/2 West 24th Street, NYC.

1943: San Francisco Bulletin reporter Marsh Masline interviewed Ricardo, a San Quentin Prison A.A. group member.

1946:

-Baton Rouge, La., A.A.'s hold their first anniversary meeting.

-The A.A. Grapevine reported the New York Seaman's Group issued a pamphlet for seamen "on one page the 12 Steps had been streamlined into 5."

-Des Moines Committee for Education on Alcoholism aired its first show on KRNT.

-Pueblo, Colorado had a second group, composed of alcoholic State Hospital patients.

1951: Fortune magazine article about A.A. was published in pamphlet form.

1959: A.A. granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

1963: Harper’s Magazine published an article critical of A.A.

1981: 1st issue of "Markings," A.A. Archives Newsletter, was published, "to give the Fellowship a sense of its own

past & the opportunity to study it."

DELEGATE’s Corner….. Continued from Page 1

information about AA and cooperating with us. Thanks to the vast majority of media outlets, our movement has grown significantly.

I received a final list of the 64th Conference Agenda items along with the background material (over 400 pages). Our Area Secretary (Barbara D.) distributed the English and Spanish Agenda items. The background material was mailed in CD form to all DCMCs, Standing Committee chairs and Spanish co-chairs, past delegates and the Area officers. Our Alternate Delegate Joe C., with support of Area 09 officers, has launched an "ad hoc" committee to summarize and translate the background material to Spanish.

The 64th Conference theme is ***"Communicating our legacies-Vital in a changing world."*** My hope is *all members participate, review and comment* on what will happen at the next General Service Conference on April 27 to May 3.

Preparing for the General Service Conference, I remain open to suggestions, opinions, comments, words of encouragement and friendly criticism. Thank you for your trust, and may God bless you all.

Service is a Legacy of Love,

Cesar F. -- Panel 64 Area 09 Delegate

*Thanks to the People with time*: When I stumbled into my first meeting it was people with time (TIME = This I Must Earn) who reached out, welcomed me and "loved me ‘til I could love myself". Your stories made me cry, laugh and keep coming back. You asked me how I was doing and took time to listen. You taught me how to work the steps. You didn't judge me harshly when I refused your help. You helped me learn the language of the heart. You made it safe for me to share when you told me how scared you were to share. You showed me how to pray and meditate and find a Higher Power. You gave me a new and beautiful life in place of a bottle. You were there even when you didn't notice I was noticing you. . . You made a difference in my life. Some people say: "Don't quit before the Miracle." Thank you for not quitting even after the miracle of your recovery.

From a grateful and sober member of A.A.

-Page 2



A.A. HISTORY MARCH *… continued*

**March 15**

1941: First A.A. group was formed in New Haven, Connecticut.

**March 16**

1940: Bill moved the Alcoholic Foundation office to 30 Vesey St. NY, (which was *nearly destroyed* on September 11, 2001.)

**March 18**

1951: Cliff W. was elected 1st delegate from Southern California.

**March 21**

1881: Anne Ripley, Dr. Bob's wife, was born.

1966: Ebby Thatcher, Bill Wilson's sponsor, died sober.

**March 22**

1951: Dr. William Duncan Silkworth died at Towns Hospital.

1984: Clarence Snyder, founder of Cleveland A.A. and author of "Home Brewmeister," died at 81, 46 years sober.

**March 23**

1936: Bill and Lois Wilson visited Fitz Mayo (*Our Southern Friend*) in Maryland.

1941: Sybil C.'s sobriety date. She was the first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi.

**March 25**

1898: Jim B. (*The Vicious Cycle*) was born

1965: Richmond Walker, author of "Twenty-Four Hours a Day" book, died at age 72, almost 23 years sober.

2005: Nancy Olson, Founder of AAHL -

See Memorial at <http://hindsfoot.org/nomem1.html>

**March 29**

1943: The Charleston Mail, WV, reported that Bill Wilson had given a talk at St. John's Parish House.

**March 31**

1947: First A.A. group was formed in London, England.

1938: Clarence Snyder "Home Brew-meister" in 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions had his last drink.

**Dr.William Duncan Silkworth**

**World War I Picture   
Plattsburg, NY 1911-1918**

[Dr. Silkworth probably treated more alcoholics than any other physician in history -- authoring the “Doctor’s Opinion” which appears in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill W. referred to him as “Silky”. He died of a heart attack at his home in 1951.]

To Whom It May Concern:

I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years. In late 1934

I attended a patient who, though he had been a competent businessman of good earning capacity, was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.

In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his conceptions to other alcoholics, impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of a rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and over one hundred others appear to have recovered.

I personally know scores of cases who were of the type with whom other methods had failed completely.

These facts appear to be of extreme medical importance; because of the extraordinary possibilities of rapid growth inherent in this group they may mark a new epoch in the annals of alcoholism. These men may well have a remedy for thousands of such situations.

You may rely absolutely on anything they say about themselves.

Very truly yours,

William D. Silkworth, M.D.

***The only requirement for A.A. membership is***

***a desire to*** C:\Users\KATE\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JONTIH6M\MC900320322[1].wmf***stop drinking.***

--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.

-Page 3

A.A. HISTORY MARCH *… continued*

**March without specific dates**:

**1936:** A.A. had 10 members staying sober. At the end of 1936 A.A. had a total of 15 members.

**1938:** Bill begins writing a book about Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc. was established to support writing and printing of the book.

**1940:** Mort J. came to LA from Denver; started the custom of reading Chapter 5 from the Big Book at Cecil group.

**1941:**

**-** Second printing of Big Book.

**-** First prison A.A. Group formed at San Quentin.

**1945: “**March of Time” film was produced and supervised by E.M. Jellinek and produced by NY A.A. office.

**1946:** The Jefferson Barracks A.A. Group in Missouri was formed. It is thought to be the first ever in a military installation.

**1949:** Dr. Bob considers idea of an A.A. conference premature. Officially held in 1950 -- A.A. International Conference.

**1951: “**American Weekly” publishes a memorial article for Dr. Bob.

**When Love is not Enough: The Lois Wilson Story (2010)**

**Saturday – March 15 \*\* FREE\*\* DOOR OPENS 7PM**

MSCA 09 Archives **\*** 7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B **\*** Riverside

1914, Lois Burnham, a college-educated woman from an affluent family,

meets and falls in love with Bill Wilson, a young man of modest means.

They marry in 1918, and after his return from World War I, the two set

out to build a life together. Lois as a nurse, Bill struggles to find his niche.

She believes Bill is destined for greatness--despite his increasing reliance

on alcohol. Lois persuades a friend’s husband to hire Bill at his financial

firm. By 1927, Bill is working on Wall Street – they are living a luxurious lifestyle. Despite Lois’s efforts to control his drinking, Bill’s alcoholism

spirals out of control. Soon his job, their lifestyle and dreams are gone.

**DISTRICT ARCHIVIST WORKSHOP**

**Saturday, March 22, 2014**

**10 am – 2 pm**

**Open to all District, Intergroup**,

**Group Archivists and Historians**

***Come and learn what you can do to help***

***preserve the history of A.A.,***

***MSCA Area 09 and your District***

**Workshop includes:**

● *I am an Archivist, now what?*

● *What to collect and what not to collect*

● *Simple preservation, conservation*

*and transport techniques*

● *How to do oral histories*

● *Tracing a Group’s history*

● *Questions and Answers*

**Location: MSCA 09 Archives Repository**

**7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B**

**Riverside, CA. 92503**

**(951) 785-0845 or** [**archives@mscaarchives.org**](mailto:archives@mscaarchives.org)

C:\Users\KATE\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\JONTIH6M\MC900320322[1].wmf

To insure effective leadership,

we should endow each element of AA--the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives--with a traditional "*Right of Decision*."

**AA GRAPEVINE, JULY 1955**

**Bill Wilson**

"Recovery, Unity and Service — these are the Three Legacies of our A.A. experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. God, as He may speak in our group conscience, is our sole authority. And World Service is the heart of our **Third Legacy**.”

-Page 4