



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

November 2005

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

New MSCA Officers elected for Panel 56

On Oct. 9, the MSCA Assembly elected the following officers to serve for the 2006-2007 term.. congratulations and many thanks to all!

- Delegate: Bruce H
- Alt. Delegate: Joe B
- Chair: Craig S
- Secretary: Melissa B
- Treasurer: "Ike" Mike
- Registrar: Jason S

Proposals passed on Sept. 11

The Sept. 11, 2005 MSCA Assembly passed the following proposals:

1. The 2006 MSCA Meeting Schedule, as amended on that day. (This amended is posted on the MSCA website)
2. Election of the Pete B. as a candidate for Pacific Region Trustee
3. Modification of MSCA Newsletter Guidelines to allow links on our MSCA website to selected AA websites whose links have been approved by the EMSC (e.g. our Central Offices)
4. Modification of the MSCA Newsletter Guidelines to officially give general responsibility for content of the MSCA website to the EMSC (guided by the AA Traditions and 12 Concepts of World Service), while having the MSCA Assembly retain final responsibility and ultimate authority for the content of the MSCA website.
5. Area 9 Expense and Budget Policy.
6. Confirmation of Nick M as the EMSC (Electronic Media Sub-Committee) Chair.
7. Budget override for the Delegate Expenses at the 2005 International Convention.
8. Budget override to the GSR School Spanish Cochair.
9. Change of name of the MSCA Correctional Facilities Committee to the MSCA Corrections Committee.

Our MSCA website had 15,934 hits during the month of September, 2005. Many thanks to all of you who continue to help make this website a valuable tool for accomplishing our primary purpose, "Service to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Our Area will be taking an Inventory

At our next ASC (Area Service Committee) Meeting on Nov. 13, the mid-Southern California Area will be taking its inventory. The location of this ASC meeting is the Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840. We'll be taking the inventory after lunchtime.

About our Area Inventory

By Bruce H

I was asked to talk about the inventory that will take place on Nov 13th at our Area Service Committee meeting in Garden Grove. Some background on this inventory: It was suggested to me from many Trusted Servants in this Area that maybe it was time to do an Area Inventory. Of course I listened to their suggestions and decided to pray to see if the right answer came and of course it came to me. Then in May, I approached 3 members of this Area and asked them if they would be willing to work on a series of questions to be compiled to stimulate discussion. They put in many hours of work, and then they came back with these questions and gave them to me last week at the Election Assembly. Meanwhile I had to come up with a person from outside of our Area to do this inventory for the most obvious reasons. The person that I asked was Jim W, the Area 05 Delegate, and he agreed to do this. Let's give Jim our support and love when he comes here on the 13th of November.

The format and the questions will not be revealed until I consult with Jim W. on the 12th of November at the Area 08 Elections.. Meanwhile I would suggest to prepare by getting a hold of the Traditions checklist which is available from the AA Grapevine and the Concepts Checklist which is a Service piece available from GSO. I got mine from our local central office. Also dig into the Service Manuel and our Area Guidelines which you can download from our Website, msca09aa.org.

The last question is "Why do we need a Inventory?" Well, just like it is suggested in the pamphlet, "The AA Group," on pages 35 and 36, it is also beneficial for Areas to do this on a regular basis. As our book suggests, we do a spot check inventory. We, as a Area, can sometimes get off the road and need to get back on the main highway. So get your thinking caps on and do your homework and come join us on Nov 13th for loving discussion and a spiritual experience.

Love thru Service Bruce H. Area Chairperson



Archives Committee to put virtual tour on website

The Archives Committee is planning to the following to our MSCA website: some examples of Archives material, minutes of the Archives Committee meetings, and a virtual tour (power point presentation) of the MSCA Archives.

Welcome new Assistant Webservant

The Electronic Media Sub-Committee of the Newsletter Committee now has an assistant web-servant, Bob B from District 15. We thank you Bob, for volunteering! Bob is highly computer literate, has extensive experience with software and computer hardware, is bilingual, and will be a great help to the MSCA in this service position. Bob will learn the structure and content of the website, the tools we use to maintain the website, and the history of what items the EMSC and other MSCA members have discussed adding to the website (and what our decisions were regarding each of those items, and why we made those decisions). He will also get to know the contact people at our website host (those invaluable people who help us with any technical problems we encounter, and who back-up our website every single night, and keep the back-up for 14 days, just in case the data on our website ever gets damaged or lost). With this extensive knowledge, Bob will be able to serve as a substitute webservant if the regular webservant ever becomes unavailable or incapacitated. He will also be able to help with the increasing workload of maintaining and improving our website (adding/changing/deleting documents, changing the email lists as our district, committee and area officers rotate or change addresses, etc.) as the area finds more and more ways to use our website to help us accomplish our primary purpose.

Concept 11 (long form)

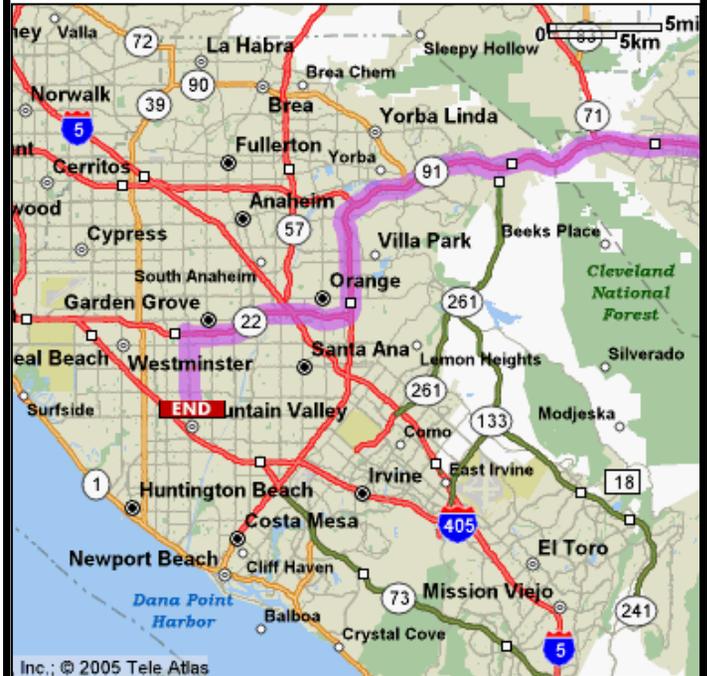
While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

Tradition 11 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

Dec. 11, ASC Meeting, (recreation center) 16400 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, 92708-2000



Directions:

From Palm Springs: Head west on I-10 (drive 18.5 miles). Merge onto CA-60 W via the exit on the LEFT toward RIVERSIDE (drive 22.9 miles). Take the CA-91 S exit toward RIVERSIDE / BEACH CITIES (drive 0.3 miles). Take the CA-60 exit toward LOS ANGELES (drive 0.2 miles). Merge onto I-215 S. (drive <0.1 miles). I-215 S becomes CA-91 W. (drive 22.5 miles). Take CA-91 EXPRESS LN toward 91 EXPRESS TOLL (Portions toll) (drive 8.3 miles). Merge onto CA-55 S. (drive 5.1 miles) Merge onto CA-22 W toward LONG BEACH (drive 7.6 miles). Take the exit toward BROOKHURST ST. (drive 0.2 miles). Turn RIGHT onto TRASK AVE. (drive 0.1 miles). Turn RIGHT onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 2.8 miles). Turn LEFT onto THISTLE AVE. (drive <0.1 miles). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**

From Newport Beach: Head north on I-405 N toward LONG BEACH (Drive 2.9 miles). Take the BROOKHURST ST exit- EXIT 14- toward FOUNTAIN VALLEY (drive 0.4 miles). Take the BROOKHURST ST NORTH ramp (drive 0.3 miles) Merge onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 1.2 miles). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**.

From Long Beach: Head south on I-405. Take the WARNER AVE EAST exit- EXIT 15A. (drive 0.2 miles). Merge onto WARNER AVE. (drive 0.7 miles). Turn LEFT onto BROOKHURST ST. (drive 0.6 miles). End at **16400 Brookhurst St**

Minutes & Agendas of Past Assemblies & ASCs now on website

If you want to remind yourself of what happened at a prior MSCA Assembly ASC or, you can now find the minutes (and agendas) of those past meetings on the MSCA website. They are listed at the bottom of the Event Calendar page.



Some opinions on use of MSCA money

By Mike M

Once again comes that time of year when the heavy burden of coming up with a budget is upon us. AA is my avocation not my job. The seventh tradition applies to my life as well as my group. I try to be self-supporting thru my labors. If I can lead at all it is only thru example and not by quoting the big book or the service manual. God has blessed me with the gift of sobriety and I try to repay God and AA by the giving of my time, my love and my money. I don't charge for doing what I love to do, helping another alcoholic (I don't think my sponsor ever got paid to help me).

Our traditions are a guide to us on how we should relate to each other and the world outside.

"One-Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." I am but a small part of the greater whole, neither less than or more than anyone else.

"Three-Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation." No one asked me how much I made when I got here or when I stood for commitment after commitment, only if I was willing. Now there are things you must have to perform some services like to give a ride you need a car. I am grateful for my sobriety and I give everything I can to show how grateful I am. This is what countless people have done before me and I hope countless others will do when I'm long gone.

"Six-Problems of money, property, and authority may divert us from our spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to AA should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An AA group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to AA, 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 AA name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, AA managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside AA--and medically supervised. While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An AA group can bind

itself to no one." MPA: money, property, and authority may divert us from our spiritual aim, if we're thinking of any of those rather than how we can help the alcoholic that still suffers, we're in deep Doo-Doo. If we're doing this for money, property or prestige, we're doing it for the wrong reason and the bottom line is an AA group may bind itself to no one.....Not even me! If the thought of getting reimbursed or not getting reimbursed was a factor in my being of service to God and to my fellows, I probably would have stayed in bed today instead of driving 3 hours and sitting in a hotbox for 4 hours. Bill said our twelfth step work ought never be paid for: *"Freely ye have received, freely give."* How much can I claim for mileage on the way to my next twelfth step call? It is the Area policy to reimburse people for expenses while carrying out the tasks to enable that 12th step call, but some would rather give than take. I have one word for those that say this not showing the true cost of service! &*@*#!

Nowhere in the promises does it say I'll get mileage! Nowhere in the promises does it say I'll get my travel expenses reimbursed! Nowhere in the promises does it say I'll get a new computer! The true cost of service is sacrifice! If you're not willing to sacrifice, you are not willing to be of service! Hundreds of people I don't even know went out of their way to do the tasks that enabled me to get sober. They made the coffee, they set the chairs, they answered the phones without getting a dime! How in God's name can I ever repay them even at \$.25 a mile? Maybe if I take that which the Area has gifted me with, a budget, and spend it on something other than myself and I find yet another way to *"Freely give what has been freely given."* When I think of our Area budget the first thing I think of is that it's the group's money and not mine. They trusted me to put this money to good use not spending it on frivolous expenses like buying dinner for friends or renting a convertible. "Are these expenses needed or useful?" Bill said little money is needed to do twelfth step work but you would never know it from some of the budget requests submitted. MSCA is a lot of things, but we're not a central office, we're not an H+I committee that takes panels into institutions or jails, we're supposed to represent Mid-Southern California's groups in GENERAL SERVICE . We seem to be wanting to do twelfth step work and get paid for it! I hope we can agree on a 2006 budget that provides for the needs of our Area while being fiscally responsible. The seventh tradition is not only about what we put into the basket but also about what we don't take out for our twelfth step work.

Mike M, MSCA Finance Chair .

PRAASA 2006

March 3, 4 and 5, 2006... PRAASA, Warner Center Marriot, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. More information can be found on the praasa.org website (note that the mention of the praasa.org website in this newsletter does not imply any endorsement, approval or oversight of the site by the MSCA. This information is provided only as information to our readers.)

Sad News

It is with great sadness that we report to you that Fred B, Past Delegate to Panel 40, CNIA Area 07, passed away on 10/25/05.

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 54 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B
Archives Cochair...Ron E
CEC...Michael M
CPC...Maggie R
CPC Cochair, Spanish...Miguel M
Convention Liaison...Jason S
Convention Liaison, Spanish...Arturo F
Correctional Facilities Chair...Alex N
DCM School...Phil L
Electronic Media...Nick M
Finance Chair...Mike M
Grapevine Chair...Melissa B
La Vina Chair...Raul C
GSR School...Jim B
GSR School, Spanish...Felipe G
Literature Chair...Craig S
Literature Cochair, Spanish ...vacant
Treatment Facilities Chair...Patrick S
Newsletter Chair...Nancy R
Newsletter Cochair, Spanish...Jesus O
Public Information Chair...Christine S
Public Information, Spanish...Luciano P
Registration...Henry B
Special Needs Chair...Nancy B
Special Needs Cochair, Spanish...vacant
Archivist...Charles K
Audio Equipment...Joseph M

Panel 54 Area Officers

Delegate: Nancy J, delegate@msca09aa.org
Alt. Delegate: Carlos M, altdelegate@msca09aa.org
Secretary: Cesar F, secretary@msca09aa.org
Treasurer: Joe B, treasurer@msca09aa.org
Registrar: Linda H, registrar@msca09aa.org
Chairperson: Bruce H, chair@msca09aa.org

Upcoming Events, 2005

Nov. 5...Servathon (Host: Dist. 14), 515 E. Kimball (church), Hemet , 92543
Nov. 13...ASC (Area Service Committee) meeting (Host: Dist. 5), Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia, Garden Grove CA 92840
Dec. 11...ASC (Host: Dist. 6), 16400 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA (western side of Mile Square Park, at a Recreation Center)

2006 MSCA Meeting Schedule

Approved Sep. 11, 2005 by the Mid-Southern Calif. Area Assembly

Jan. 8 (Sun.) **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (hosted by Dist.23)
Feb. 12 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Hosted by District 17)
Mar. 12 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 21)
Apr. 2 (Sun.) Archives Open House
Apr. 9 (Sun.) Pre-Conf.Workshop (Dist 10)
May 14 (Sun.) **Assembly (GSRs vote)** (Dist. 18)
June 11 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist.22)
July 9 (Sun.) Foro do MSCA (Dists 5 & 20)
Aug. 13 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 7)
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)

Nov. 13 ASC Meeting,
Masonic Lodge, 11270 Acacia Pkwy, Garden Grove, 92840

Directions: From the CA-22, get off at Euclid St. and go north. Drive 0.6 mi. Turn RIGHT onto ACACIA PKWY. Drive 0.1 mi.

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies

9:30 am....GSR School
9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session
10:15 am....Committees meet
11:30 am....Lunch
Noon until 3:30...main meeting (in which voting occurs)