



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

October 2006

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

Concept X – Authority and Responsibility

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

“Ahah!”, you say, “I knew you were going to get around to trying to take authority away from the groups somewhere in here”. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Tenth Concept for World Service actually reinforces the groups’ authority – ultimate authority. As stated in the 2nd Tradition – there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express himself in our Group Conscience. So, the groups, through their group conscience, ultimately determine the direction and health of A.A.

But the groups, in their group conscience, realized that they could not be the provider of certain services, so they have wisely delegated these services to the service boards and committees defined in Tradition 9. So, now it’s the groups’ job to hover over the service boards and committees and micro-manage everything they do, right? Absolutely not!

The groups have given delegated authority to these boards and committees, but they retain oversight in the form of their ultimate authority. In essence, what the groups have said to the service boards and committees is: “We have given you the responsibility for providing services which we cannot provide, and along with this responsibility, we have given you the corresponding authority to carry out that responsibility – however, don’t exceed that carefully defined authority without consulting with us first”. Altogether a wonderful concept when the groups adhere to their part of the bargain and the service boards and committees do not over-step their authority. When that happens we are “blessed” with what we in A.A. call “much loving discussion”, (or is it a *seething cauldron of debate*, I can’t remember which).

It has been my experience that where this Concept usually breaks down is in the groups, themselves. So many groups just don’t care – have you ever been to an Intergroup Meeting where we should have 1000 Intergroup Reps, or an Area Assembly where we should have 1700 GSRs. We don’t come even close to approaching those numbers, maybe, on a good day ten percent of those numbers.

...continued on p.2, col 1

Delegate’s Corner

I would like to report that all the Final reports from the 2006 General Conference are out, and they are being read by the GSRs in their Home Groups. If anyone needs another report let me know I will make get you one of these reports. Remember to pay attention to the Additional Considerations since a lot of next years Final Agenda Items will come out of those items, also start discussing the theme for next years Conference.

I am also busy with the help of other members of the Area to get a bid from hotels in the Area in the process of putting in a proposal to host the Pacific Regional Forum in the year 2010. This Area having not ever Hosted a Regional Forum it is vital to get a competitive bid to present at next year’s Conference. You will hear more about this in the next couple months. I am also hopeful that soon the Final Report from the Regional Forum in Seattle will be in the hands of the members who attended the Forum in June.

I am in the final stages of preparing the sharing and feedback of this Area on the Class B question that has been discussed for months in the Area. I would like to thank all who have given me their feedback whether at the Area Assembly or via the Online Forum. Soon this report will be in the hands of the staff person to forward on to the Trustee’s Nominating Committee. I am sure our feedback will be useful in discussing this question, and I will keep the Area informed as this process moves on the rest of the year.

As far as Area Events are concerned remember in the month of October we will be starting the process of discussing next years Budget, so if your Group has any questions about make sure to attend the next 2 ASCs. Other event ,s like the PI Workshop on October 28th in Sun City and Heritage Day in Hemet need support from all members of the Area or just members of the AA community. These events will surely help broaden on how we view AA service. Then we have the Servathon which comes up in November and I am District 30 will be putting on a great event filled with Love and Service.

Lastly I have a request from the CF desk at GSO that the Corrections Correspondence Service is need of male AA members to the backup of members behind the walls requesting this service. Any questions let me know or talk to Alex our Corrections Chair.



...Concept X – Authority & Responsibility (continued from p.1)

And when ultimate authority, (the groups' authority) is not asserted, delegated authority, (the service boards and committees) will always assume ultimate authority – a real danger to the very life of Alcoholics. When the groups are not in charge, A.A. is in trouble. Does your group exercise its ultimate authority through an Intergroup Rep and a GSR?

A member of A.A. in Orange County.

What is Service in AA to Me

I am active in service in AA for one reason only- to help myself stay sober- and the primary role in service I have taken is to maintain AA the way it is and to make sure it is here for the newcomer. I don't do things to get attention nor for a reward. I do things because I was taught to do things for the program of AA and a side result is that others may benefit as well. Guess what, there are a lot of politics and personalities and egos in AA. A lot of people who do or don't do anything but complain. But the process is important or Bill W. wouldn't have made things the way they are. Yet a lot of people want to change the process for their personal benefit or they want to circumvent the process and claim ignorance.

If a group doesn't have a GSR and a intergroup rep. and make regular donations to the District, Area, Intergroup, and GSO that group is not maintaining AA the way it is nor is it making sure it is available for the newcomer. The group that violates the traditions in the hopes of "saving" everyone is just as guilty as the closed meeting that that expels the addict without offering a explanation or offer of hope. It sends the wrong message and it is bad for AA as a whole.

The lack of people willing to be of service in AA is a joke. At the last MSCA 09 Assembly 64 GSR's were present out of a possible 1900 registered groups. At the last OC Intergroup meeting only about 50

intergroup reps out of 1200 listed meetings were in attendance. Yet the people that are willing and able to due things and try get slammed for doing anything. Or others are told to rotate away and not serve anymore (I don't see a line of people wanting to be of service).

Currently I serve at the district level as DCMC of district 5. The intergroup association voted me in as a director and I am the current vice-chair. At the Area level I am the chairman of the Corrections committee. And lastly at my home group I am the meeting secretary of the Enjoying Life group in Orange. Oh, by the way I have a 4 year old daughter that I take care of by myself and I work about 70 hours a week. So I just have to ask those that argue that they don't have the time to be in service - How much time can you afford to not be in service?

In Service, Alex N

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous

Voting Outcomes on Proposals (at the 9/11/06 Assembly)

The MSCA Archives Committee Proposal "to increase their 2006 budget by \$1000 so that the Area's Archivist (Charles K) may visit the GSO Archives to research the early history of the Area" passed.

The Proposal to omit the Servathon on odd-numbered years did NOT pass. Therefore, the MSCA will continue to hold the Servathon every year.

The proposed 2007 Area Meeting Schedule was passed as amended. The amendments consisted of adding the following 3 events:

Archives Open House on April 1, 2007

Heritage Day on Oct. 6, 2007

4-Area DCM Sharing Session (host: Area 9) (date tbd)

The MSCA CEC Committee's proposal was amended, and passed as amended. The amended version that passed was "to increase the existing CEC 2006 budget by up to \$800.00 over the original budget, and not to accept money from the districts." This budget increase is to cover the remaining costs of printing the CEC pamphlet which was approved for printing by the Area Assembly in January, 2006. The proposer, Michael M., agreed to reduce the expense of the printing by printing in black and white instead of color.

Latest Online Forum Topic

The latest discussion topic has been posted to the Mid-Southern California Area Assembly's online forum. The question being asked is, ""If General Service is truly A.A. Service Work, why aren't more groups represented at the Area Assembly by General Service Representatives (G.S.R.s)?" When you go to the Area Assembly's website, <http://www.msca09aa.org/>, you will see a link named "On-Line Forum of Area 9". Click on this and you will see the two forum topics posted so far. You may still submit postings addressing Topic #1, or you may submit a posting addressing Topic #2. Please take the time to contribute to the discussion. When you click on Topic #2, you will be taken to a page that gives some background on the question and presents you with several questions to which you may chose to respond. Or, you may submit a response that is not covered by the questions.

Lastly, please keep in mind the guidelines for the forum discussion: All email addresses and last names will be omitted. Please submit only messages that are in keeping with AA principles. Please keep your postings to under 500 words.

Points of decorum for the discussion forum:

1. No names will be posted .
2. No entries which attack or criticize another person will be posted.
3. No entries mentioning outside issues in a controversial or provocative manner will be posted.
4. No entries containing profanity will be posted.
5. Entries found objectionable by 2/3 of the EMSC will not be posted.

Some experience on group insurance, bank accounts and taxes

Since beginning my term as Area Treasurer I've gotten a lot of inquiries about things like group insurance, taxes and starting a group bank account. In this article I'll try to give some helpful information, here I must give a warning that I'm not a lawyer, a CPA or a tax attorney. In all legal matters it is best to consult with a professional before taking any action. As an alcoholic with some experience in financial matters I also hope you do what I do, refer to our literature such as "The AA Group Treasurer" pamphlet F-96 , "Self-support: Where money and Spirituality Mix" pamphlet F-3, along with asking people who have experience in this finance. The Finance Committee is also a source of much wisdom and produced a seventh tradition packet with much of this information for the groups.

Ok let's tackle group insurance first: "*Landlords may sometimes ask that A.A. groups carry insurance coverage. Some groups cooperate with the facility where they meet by purchasing a "rider" in the facility's liability insurance policy. For information, you may wish to consult a local insurance agency.*" (F-96) Sometimes facility's require groups to get their own insurance and they ask "Can't the Area's insurance cover us?". No the Area's insurance only covers area events, but I do have an 800 number for cheap insurance to cover your group if needed that I got at PRAASA. We might be able to help if you ask.

Bank accounts and taxes, ever since 9-11 this has become more of a problem for groups. "*Some groups keep their funds in a bank account, for which a tax ID number is required – even for Non interest bearing accounts. The first step in obtaining a "Federal ID Number" is by filing form SS-4, which can be obtained at any Internal Revenue Service office or at the IRS website at www.irs.gov. Each A.A. group must get its own individual number; there is no one number that applies to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Depending on how much your group will keep on deposit at a bank and what its fees are, you may want to file for tax-exempt status. For information, see IRS publication 557, "Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization." It may be worthwhile to consult an accountant to learn more about these subjects. (Applies to U.S. only.)*" (F-96)

Once again a lot of good information, but I can add to that it takes a little more now to establish or sometimes even access a bank account. Part of the new security is that banks are required to identify

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Group insurance, bank accounts and taxes....*continued from column 1*

who holds each account, the catch is each bank has it's own procedures. One bank may accept you EIN and minutes to establish an account and another may not. "Can't the Area let us use there EIN?" No, Mid-Southern California Area is a 501c3 corporation and it is illegal to use our tax ID for other then Area business. We can help with information on what you'll need, forms and suggestions on ways of opening an account.

Now taxes are a subject most groups think they are immune to but let's talk about it. Above it mentions IRS publication 557 and this is a good place to start. This is a 63 paged document that outlines the do's and don'ts of the need, requirements for acquiring and maintaining non-profit status. I've distilled the parts that apply to AA groups into a 2 page sheet but the bottom line is if your group takes in more then \$5000 a year you need to look into applying for non-profit status. A group contacted me because the city they were based in wanted to tax them as a business, they take in over \$5000 a year and have no documentation of their non-profit status. Just because your group does have non-profit status doesn't mean they can't be taxed by the county for property tax. Last year the Area paid a property tax on the Archives to the county of Riverside. We can help with information and support. There are ways we can help your group in these areas. I will be glad to go anywhere any time to assist the groups in the quest to do our twelve step work. Feel free to ask any question or request information, we can help. Don't know your GSO group number? We can help. What to hold a workshop on the traditions? We are here to serve and privileged to do so.

Mike M., treasurer@msca09aa.org

Congratulations (Sept. 11, 2006)

Congratulations to the following trusted servants for being confirmed by the Sept. 11, 2006 MSCA Assembly on their new Area positions:

Oscar G....MSCA Secretary
Joseph M...MSCA Finance Chair
Jose A...GSR School Spanish Cochair
Ben...Registration Committee Chair
Raul C...Newsletter Committee Spanish Cochair

The Registrar Speaks

As your currently serving Area registrar, I would like to present a few statistics regarding one of the topics now being discussed in the on-line forum. It is my hope that this information provides you with background information which stimulates discussion on current topic, and on how we, as an area, can increase group participation in our Area 09 General Service Structure.

As of September 29, 2006, there are 2846 total groups registered in the area database.

Of the 2846 registered groups, 1791 are registered as active. Active means having a currently serving GSR, or a group mail or group phone contact.

1055 of the registered groups are inactive. Inactive means no GSR, no mail or group phone contact listed. 29% of all groups registered in area 09 are inactive.

The 1791 active groups have a total of 980 GSRs. The remaining 811 active groups have no GSRs but have group mail contacts or group phone contacts.

Of the 980 registered GSRs, an average of 46 (compiled from attendance records of the last 7 area meetings) attend ASCs and Assemblies. This number represents about 5% of those groups eligible to be represented. Since the 980 GSRs have the responsibility to attend and vote at only three (3) assemblies per year, my question is, simply, where are they?

The GSR Schools are well attended and populated with many new and returning GSRs prior to each area meeting. If those new GSRs who attend the GSR Schools participated actively or continued to attend area meetings, we would have to hold area meetings in small stadiums; but since the total number of attendees at area meetings does not increase (and has not increased during the last 5 years), the Masonic Lodge in Garden Grove is just the right size to hold the approximately 120 to 140 in attendance at these meetings.

It should also be noted that of the approximately 120 to 140 in attendance, only an average of 46 are GSRs, which means that the remainder of those voting are DCMs, DCMCs, Other assorted District and Area Officers, Standing Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs, and Past Delegates. 75% of the voting membership of the area meetings do not directly represent home groups. This is completely the opposite of the composition of the General Service Conference, which requires that delegates make up two-thirds 2/3's of the voting membership.

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The Registrar Speaks *...continued from col. 1 this page*

Is this the tail wagging the dog?

I hope these statistics motivate many responses to the topic currently under discussion, and lead to discussion of this at your District meetings and in your home groups.

In Unity & Service,

Jason S.

Area 09 Panel 56 Registered,

The Pacific Regional Forum 2006 Final Report

(a 39-page report) is now posted on our website, www.msca09aa.org

Tradition 10 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that: No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

Concept X (long form)

X Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority – the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

District 30 of Mid-Southern California Area 09

Would like to invite all A.A. members to the

Mid-Southern California Area 09

Servathon

November 11, 2006

at

Joshua Tree Community Center

6171 Sunburst Road

Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Doors open at 9:00 to 9:30 am coffee & donuts

Lunch at 12:00

Servathon lasts until 2:30 pm

If you would like to help with the set-up and such, please be there at 8:00 am. We would appreciate your help!!

This event is funded by your Group's 7th Tradition

Public Information Workshop is Rocking!

Although at first our committee struggled with this Workshop, as always, God is in charge and it is coming together in a super way. An invitation to all MSCA 09 Committee's is open; as well as all districts.

I'm excited, as is the Public Information Committee! This is our first Workshop and bilingual no less!

I just barely got this out, since I'm calling Judges, TV Stations, my Alternate, Thom is busy with Cox Cable and some of his resources. Chuck, is getting District 17, our host District, prepared. Oh, all Central Offices are also invited!

Our Delegate, Bruce and Past-Delegate, Al P. will field questions. Joseph has agreed to do the sound. I also was able to get some translators.

Lunch is pot-luck! We have Chuck's Chili, Jay's cookies, Damian's water, Isaac's chips & salsa, Thom's soda, Teresa's fruit plate, Kristen's sandwich tray, Bob's soda and who knows what else!!

Maybe some of the Committees will bring some desert or doughnuts! WE ARE EXCITED!!

We have secured our first speaker and he will be a first! As your Chair, I have personally invited many print media & TV, hopefully the rest of the committee will get the Teachers, Librarians there. Did I mention WE ARE EXCITED!!

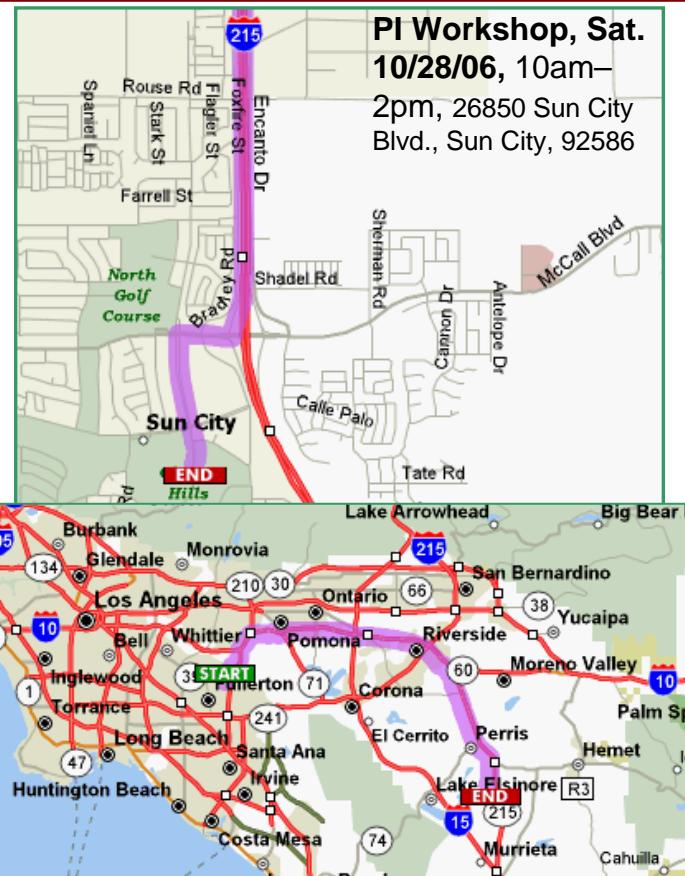
There is a flyer and map on the PI Committee's page of the website, www.msca09aa.org

Yours in Service, MSCA 09 Public Information Chair, Linda H.

PI Workshop, Sat.

10/28/06, 10am–

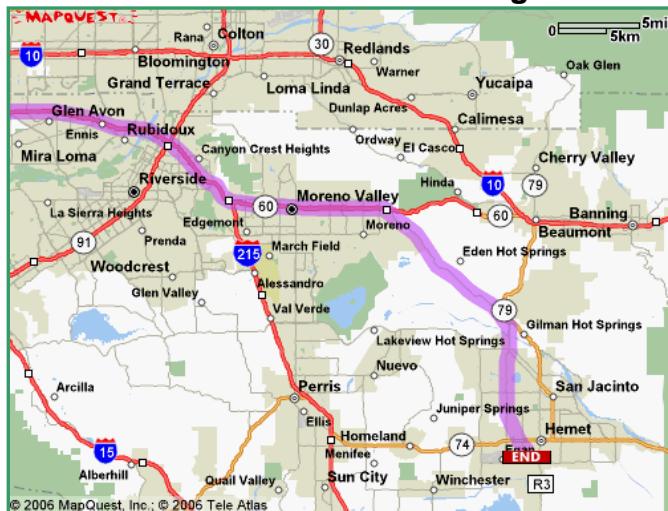
2pm, 26850 Sun City Blvd., Sun City, 92586



Directions: From Orange County: Take CA-60 E toward Pomona/ Riverside. Take I-215 S toward San Diego/Eastridge Ave./Eucalyptus Ave and drive 17.4 miles. 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

Heritage Day, Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006, 1-4 PM, Hosted by District 14.

Come hear long-timers tell “what it used to be like!”



Rec room at Panorama Village, 1401 Teakwood Place – Hemet
Take I-215 south to State Hwy 74 (Florida Ave) East on Hwy 74 to Lyon Ave South (right) to W. Mayberry Ave. and follow the signs

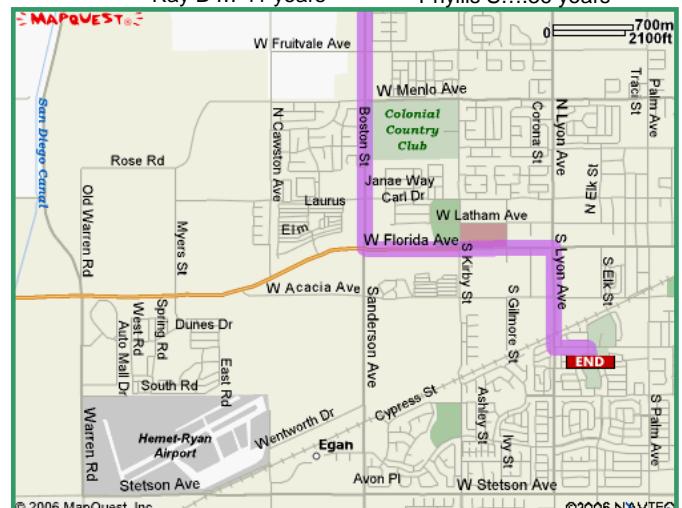
This year's participants have 160 years of combined sobriety.

Dave R...40 years

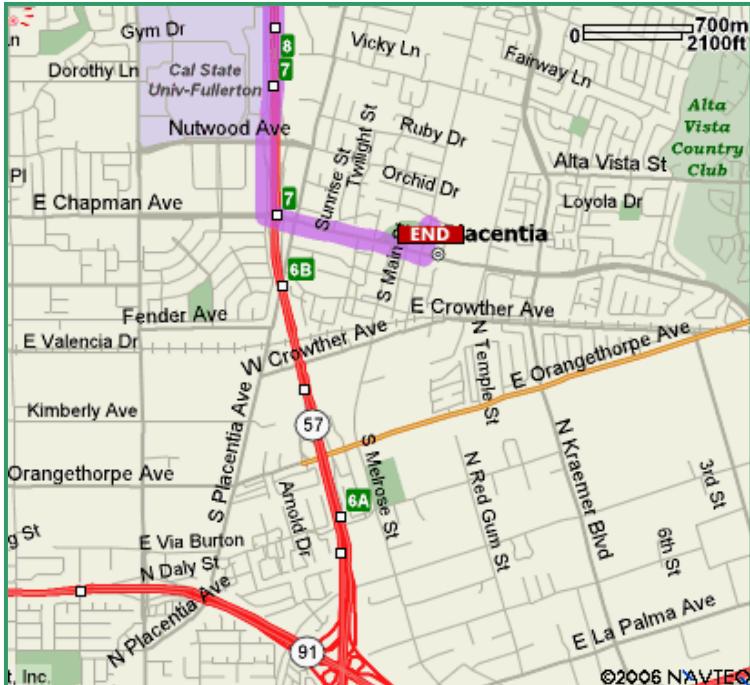
William S...43 years

Ray B ... 41 years

Phyllis S....36 years



**ASC, Oct. 8, 2006, Hosted by District 24
Backs Community Bldg
201 N. Bradford Ave. Placentia, CA 92870**



(At this Area Service Committee (ASC) meeting, proposals will be presented, and questions can be asked and answered on each, but no vote will be taken on them)

Directions: From the 57 Freeway, Go east on Chapman Ave in Placentia. Drive 0.6 mi. Turn left onto Bradford Ave. Drive 0.1 mi.

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 56 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Cochairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Pete B
CEC...Michael M
CPC...Ernesto M
CPC Cochair, Spanish...tbd
Convention Liaison...Gary M
Convention Liaison,
Spanish...tbd
Corrections Chair...Alex N
DCM School...Jim B
DCM School Spanish
Cochair.....
Electronic Media Sub-
Committee...Nick M
Finance Chair...Joseph M
Grapevine Chair...Linda C
La Vina Chair...Francisco D
GSR School...Scott R
GSR School, Spanish... Jose A
Literature Chair...Patrick C
Coffee person...vacant

Literature Cochair, Spanish
...Cesar F
Newsletter Chair...Russ D
Newsletter Cochair,
Spanish...Raul C
Public Information
Chair...Linda H
Public Information,
Spanish...Damien
Registration...Ben
Special Needs Chair...Rich
W
Special Needs Cochair,
Spanish....vacant
Translation... Jesus O
Treatment Facilities
Chair...Phil L
Webservant...Nancy R
Sound Dude...Joseph M

Upcoming Events

Oct. 8 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist. 24) Backs Community Bldg, 201 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*)

Oct. 15 (Sun.) Heritage Day, 1-4 pm, Rec Room at Panorama Village, 1401 Teakwood Place, Hemet

Nov. 11 (Sat.) Servathon (Dist 30), 6171 Sunburst Rd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252, 9am - 2:30 pm

Dec. 10 (Sun.) ASC Meeting (Dist 1). (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the Assembly Agenda*),

MSCA Schedule for 2007

(approved Sept. 10, 2006 by the MSCA Assembly)

Jan. 14, Assembly (D11)	Jul 8 Foro (D4,21)
Feb. 11 ASC (D2)	Aug 12 ASC (D14)
Mar 11 ASC (District 9)	Sep 9 Assemb (D12)
Apr. 1 Archives Open House	Oct. 6 Heritage Day
Apr. 15 Pre-Conf. Workshop (D15)	Oct 14 Assemb (D8)
May 20 Assembly (D6)	Nov. 3 Servathon
June 10 ASC (D19)	Nov. 11 ASC
	Dec. 9 ASC

4-Area DCM Sharing Session (date tbd)

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:30 am....GSR School

9:30 am....Delegate's Sharing Session

10:15 am....Committees meet

11:30 am.....Lunch

Noon... **Main Meeting** (which normally includes introductions of new GSRs, Area officers' reports, presentation/ discussion/ voting on proposals, committee reports, other reports)

3:30...Adjournment

Panel 56 Area Officers

Chairperson: Craig S, chair@msca09aa.org,
Delegate: Bruce H, delegate@msca09aa.org,
Alt. Delegate: Joe B,
altdelegate@msca09aa.org
Secretary: Oscar G,
secretary@msca09aa.org
Treasurer: Mike M, treasurer@msca09aa.org
Registrar: Jason S, registrar@msca09aa.org