



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

May 2008

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

50 Years Ago in the AA Grapevine

From the May 1958 Grapevine: AA Around the World

A LONER IN CAMBODIA

Dear Lib [he wrote to GSH on New Year's Day]
The holiday season is over and I got through without a drink. I don't think it will be so bad now--I followed your excellent advice to the letter. I called the AA member in Amsterdam and talked to him for an hour on the telephone. He gave me a terrific lift as I felt mighty blue on the plane (my traveling companions were drinking steady).

As you predicted the drinking here is rough--I am located at a line camp in the jungle. There is nothing to do here, but none of the guys twist my arm to drink. They probably respect the fact I don't drink.

On arrival I contacted the doctor as you advised. He is a young British doctor and a really nice guy. He was very interested in AA and has heard about it.

I gave him the literature and he was real happy to get it--drinking is a big problem here. The guys are making good money and dropping most of it on booze--this problem ranks from the top brass down.

I told the doctor I wanted a drunk to sponsor. I know he is in AA's corner and I'm sure he will help me. If I could get one other member to start a squad I'm sure we could get an AA group going as there surely is a need here.

I am reading AA stuff to keep me sober and I keep up my prayers. I am now going to start writing letters to AA friends and I hope that God will help us to get a group going here. I'm pretty lonesome for my family and I'll feel a lot better when I know they are getting my financial support.

All my best wishes to you and the rest of the swell people in your office. Please put me on your mailing list.

Don E.
Cambodia

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Young People's Video Project

"Carrying the message" into the 21st Century - through personal digital/video media

In 2005, a questionnaire was distributed through the Area Service Structures targeting Young People's Groups and Committees asking for evaluation and input on the then current videos "Young People and AA" and "A.A.: Rap With Us". The response from that survey was that the 1980's videos included music; clothing, dance and language which were outdated and not effective in helping young people achieve identification with the fellowship of today.

The 2006 General Service Conference approved an advisory action recommending that the outdated videos "Young People and AA" and "A.A.: Rap With Us" be replaced.

In January of 2007, the Trustees Committee on Public Information recommended that one possible solution allowing frequent updating of videos might be the use of video submissions by younger members using video/digital technology (similar to personalized "U-Tube" or "My-Space" videos).

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The Wisdom of Those Who Went Before

AA is a spiritual program. It remains so as a result of practicing the 12 Traditions as an ideal. The 12 traditions guarantee that no one be excluded, but also guarantees that no group or society be given special consideration. This balance has been struck through many years of painful experiences at many levels of AA.

One of the ways that recovery is represented is through Area committees. Each committee has a specific function to aid the community at large to help potential alcoholics find recovery in AA, practicing attraction (11th Tradition).

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Public Information District 5

The Public Information committee of District 5 is looking forward to being involved in the community with as many events as possible this year. Currently serving the cities of Santa Ana, Orange, Tustin, and Villa Park it has within its boundaries many opportunities to be of service. The committee will be at various public events this year giving out pamphlets about what AA is and what AA is not along with meeting directories so those who need AA will be able to find it.

Current events scheduled so far are the following: The 19th Annual COPS event at The Block of Orange put on by the City of Orange Police Department on June 7, 2008. We will be staff a booth for the day with AA information available for the taking. For the kids we give out the comic book info about AA that all children seem to enjoy.

We look forward to assisting with Orange County Intergroup in the staffing of the booth at the OC Fair during the month of July 2008. Lastly we are reviewing the Big Books in the Public Library project that we started last year and hope to expand that project by placing meeting directories in the local hotels and motels. The committee is always looking for speakers for schools and health fairs and people to staff booths at community events.

If you are interested in being of service please let me know by phone 714-218-8867 or email noconla@netscape.net we would love for you to be a part of the committee.

Alex N.

District 5 Public Information

Concept 5 (long form)

Throughout our Conference structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

MSCA Website Usage

During the month of March, 2008, our MSCA website (msca09aa.org) received an average of 1481 hits per day, and an average of 278 visitors (sessions) per day.

Young People's Video Project ...continued from

p.1, col. 2

It is my good and great pleasure to announce that as of April 2008 these personal videos are now being requested from within the fellowship, and the Young People's Video Project (YPV) is actively seeking submissions from young people with the widest possible diversity range, to be compiled into videos of 15-20 minutes in length to carry AA's message to schools, college campuses, and other audiences of young people everywhere. Content is encouraged which includes sharing on young people's experience with the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, Service in A.A., the Home Group, Sponsorship, Surrender, Gratitude, Living Sober at a young age, or any topic relevant to those who still suffer.

If you are a young man or woman enthusiastic about your sobriety and the tools with which you maintain it; have a sense of adventure; and would like to be a pioneer in this ground breaking piece of A.A.'s future, you may be encouraged to accept this challenge to become a pioneer videographer of your own recovery. Be creative! (Individual videos should be 3 to 5 minutes; music and animation are encouraged, special effects welcome.)

If you are a young man or woman enthusiastic about your sobriety and the tools with which you maintain it; have a sense of adventure; and would like to be a pioneer in this ground breaking piece of A.A.'s future, you may be encouraged to accept this challenge to become a pioneer videographer of your own recovery. Be creative! (Individual videos should be 3 to 5 minutes; music and animation are encouraged, special effects welcome.)

As the panel 58 Chairperson, by the end of this summer I would like to see 25 submissions accepted from Area 09, which is the home of many of the finest and most active young people in A.A. today. I would also like permission to use some of these submissions in our Area 09 Video Project for our 50th Anniversary as part of the General Service Structure in 2009.

Guidelines for Anonymity, dress codes, filming tips and requirements for use of sound or animated material used in videos are available on the MSC Area 09 website. You may contact me directly through the Website email or contact the Public Information Desk at GSO if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this project. Let it be known that in Area 09, this is how we roll...."Lights; Camera; Action, and more Action".

Jason S.
Panel 58 Area 09 Chairperson

The Wisdom of Those Who Went Before

... continued from page 1, col. 2

Special Needs carries information to organizations that deal with the blind, deaf, homebound, or otherwise handicapped. CPC provides the message to professionals, who point their patients/clients/workers to AA. H & I brings panels to hospitals and institutions that wish for their patients/detainees to hear about recovery. And PI makes information about AA available to the public at large.

All of these committees have the responsibility to carry the message to all segments of the population. They are named purely by their function, in keeping with the 5th Tradition to carry the message to **any** alcoholic. The wisdom here is great. If AA were to name a committee after a segment of society, it would carry grave consequences.

It would politicize AA. Non Alcoholics could question our sincerity in carrying our message to all alcoholics. They could accuse AA of being biased or prejudiced. They could demand that we form such committees for other segments of society, and would have good argument to do so, since AA would have set the precedent. In keeping with our 6th and 10th Traditions, committees must have general names to stay out of the public eye and not be considered an outside issue.

If a committee was formed for a one part of society, the same upheaval could happen in AA itself, jeopardizing unity and our common welfare, violating the 1st Tradition.

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Tradition 5 (long form)

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Wisdom.... *...continued from col. 1*

Members may begin to question if God was really in control of a group conscious that violated so many traditions, questioning the 2nd Tradition. Autonomy could go to an extreme, as unrepresented groups of AA members felt jilted, stretching the meaning of the 4th Tradition. When such controversy erupts within AA, our 11th Tradition is put to the test; would newcomers be attracted to an organization that is so splintered?

Naming committees by function rather than by "groups of society" is the work of a loving God. It allows all who have a desire to stop drinking to find recovery, in keeping with the 3rd tradition. Naming groups by function proves that AA is responsible to all alcoholics (9th Tradition). It truly is an act of placing principles first (12 Tradition).

anonymous

Disclaimer: SIS is not an MSCA-sponsored event, and is published for those in our Area who might be interested:

3rd Annual A.A. Seniors In Sobriety Conference,

Queen Mary Hotel, Long Beach, California, May 20, 21, 22 & 23, 2008

Featuring: Meetings, Workshops & Fellowship, Luncheon, Banquet, Speakers, and Entertainment

Stateroom rate: \$129 (applies 3 days before and 3 days after conference)

Excursions – Long Beach Sites & Avalon (Catalina Island)

Full Al-Anon Participation

This conference will focus on concerns and issues impacting seniors, their spouses and family with both short term and long term sobriety. It will provide an opportunity for alcoholics of all ages to discuss the effects of aging on sober alcoholics and how to help the still-suffering senior alcoholic.

Our history began with a conference in Kona, Hawaii and continued with another in Sedona, Arizona. We intend to use experiences from these events to create yet another highly enjoyable and rewarding conference.

For more information and registration forms, go to www.2008SISconference.org

Upcoming Events

May 18, 2008, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**), (District 20), Valley High School Auditorium 1801 S. Greenville Santa Ana CA 9270

June 8, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 1)

July 13, 2008, Sunday, Foro (District 22 & 30)

Aug. 10, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), (District 15)

August 29, 30, and 31, 2008: 2008 Pacific Regional Forum - Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center, 322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201 (registration information can be found on our msca website)

Sep. 14, Sunday, Assembly (**GSRs vote**), (District 4)

Oct. 12, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will present proposals, but no vote will be taken on them*), (District 7)

Nov. 8, 2008, Servathon (Saturday) (District 3)

Dec. 14, 2008, Sunday, ASC (*The ASC will vote on which proposals to put onto the next Assembly Agenda*), District 18

Panel 58 Area Officers

Delegate: Joe B, 714-423-3808, delegate2008@msca09aa.org

Alternate Delegate: Mike M

Chair: Jason S

Secretary: Ruth D

Treasurer: Linda H

Registrar: Cesar F

Schedule for most MSCA Assemblies/ASCs

9:00 am....GSR/DCM/DCMC Schools, Delegate's Rpt

10:30...ASC or Assembly mtg

Ca 1 pm.....Lunch

Ca 1:30 pm...Committee mtgs

3:30 pm...Committee mtgs Adjourn

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 Co-Chairs of the Standing committees are listed below.

Panel 58 Area Standing Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs, et al.

Archives Chair...Joseph H

CEC Chair...Rick H

Area Communications Committee Chair...Linda C

Area Communications Committee Co-chair...tbd

Newsletter Subcommittee Chair...Steve S

Electronic Media Sub-Committee Chair...Henry B

Webservant...Becky B

Equipment Subcommittee Chair...tbd

Translation Subcommittee Chair...Jorge

Convention Liaison...Mike

Convention Liaison, Spn...Jose A

Corrections Chair...Patrick C

CPC Chir...Michael M

CPC Co-Chair, Span...Santiago S

DCM School...Scott R

DCM School Spanishtbd

Finance Committee Chair...Joseph M

Grapevine Chair...Kimberli A

La Viña Chair...Angela R

GSR School...John H

GSR School, Spanish... Paco G

Literature Chair...tbd

Literature Co-Chair, Spanish ...tbd

Public Information Chair...Kay M

Public Info., Sp...Francisco D

Registration...David T

Special Needs Chair...tbd

Special Needs Co-Chair, Spanish....tbd

Treatment Facilities Chair...Al F

Sound Dude... Raul C

Coffee person...Mauricio T