

# Mid-Southern California Area 09 Newsletter

Mid-Southern California Area 09 includes approximately 2,000 A.A. Groups in the counties of Los Angeles (south of Rosecrans), San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange



## DELEGATE'S CORNER

### Friendly With My Friends

So I got an invite to an ice cream social next week, and I thought how wonderful is it to be relaxed and socialize with some friends over a little ice cream in the summer. Just the fact that friends invited me to participate in an Area event, even though the Area was in Wisconsin, was mind boggling in itself. Friends, real true to life friends. That wasn't exactly what I signed up for when I decided to get sober February 28th, way back in 1993. But friends are what I have received as one of the promises of our Program. Lifelong friends bound together by our history, commencing shoulder to shoulder our common journey. Learning what it means to give of ourselves that others may survive and rediscover life. Our book promises, "You will learn the full meaning of 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.'" And that I have through a life in General Service.

I attended the La Viña Anniversary in Fullerton, CA this past weekend, and there again, friends. Most of which didn't even speak the same language as I, but we still had that bond; that joy that we are given as a result of our recovery through Alcoholics Anonymous. There were also four other current Delegates of the Pacific Region there as well as 4 past Delegates, who have also seen 'Mecca', the General Service Conference, in their years of service... All of us bound together with wonderful ties. Irene D., the editor of La Viña and I relived moments that we shared at the Conference as we were both 10 minute opening speakers at the event. Bound by our love of our beloved La Viña.

Visit our website at [www.area09.org](http://www.area09.org) Continued on page 2 Mid-Southern California Area Newsletter – August 2013

### **UPCOMING AREA EVENTS**

(more on page 6)

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August 11—Sunday

#### **Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**

Hesperia Unified School District  
15576 Main St  
Hesperia, CA 92345  
Hosted by District 19

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September 8—Sunday

#### **Area Assembly**

Knights of Columbus Hall  
1729 E. Baseline Ave.,  
San Bernardino  
Hosted by District 11

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October 13—Sunday

#### **Area Assembly—ELECTIONS**

UFCW Local 324 Union Hall  
8530 Stanton Ave. Buena Park  
Hosted by District 15

**Where's Jeryl?**  
**Check page 2 & 4**



When a Man Loves a Woman (1994)  
Father Martin's Chalk Talk (2000)  
For One More Day (2007)

Sat., Aug 17  
Sat., Sep 21  
Sat., Oct 19

**7111 Arlington Ave., Suite B**

Riverside

(951) 785-0845

(Next to the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)

**Show Time:** Doors open at 7:00

The movie starts at 7:30.

Stay after the show and tour the Archives

+ Cartoon

**Cost:** Free!

*Bring your lawn chairs or chaise longue and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater. Refreshments available.*

*Delegate's Corner—continued from page 1*

I then went to the desert to do a District Share Back, and low and behold, another past Delegate and more friends. AA has a booth at the Orange County fair that I will participate in...Friends; I went to District 8...friends; Spanish Intergroup in Victorville...Friends; my Home Group...Friends; My Men's Stag, Von's market, the gas station, neighbors, people at lights everywhere and everyone!! I have to be the most blessed man in the world. I talked to my wife, mother, sister, son...all friends. Newcomers, old timers, minister at the local church, rival Yankee fan. Everywhere I turn, people I have a relationship with who benefit from my years in Service to AA and God (or Higher Power if you will), just keep showing up. Or is it that I keep showing up?

I literally learned to be a friend through General Service. As a Delegate, Area Chair, District Chair, DCM, GSR, Alt. GSR, I have been taught how to serve my fellow man, and respect their being. I am so grateful for the fact that I have met God in so many places, so many faces, and in the most obscure situations. There is no way I could fully convey to you my joy at what has happened in my life, just by saying, "Available," but of course, I will try.

In October, Area 09 will have its elections for both the Board and for a nominee for Pacific Regional Trustee. Many of our Districts will follow with their elections of their officers and committee chairpersons. Groups will be electing new GSRs to carry their message and be their voice. I would encourage everyone not to miss this opportunity to further their education in life through Service. It can only be done by making yourself "AVAILABLE," when called, to be a Tool For Good For God! It happened, and I truly hope it continues to happen for me. See you all in Service!

Last famous words, "God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called!"

## **Where's Jerry? ... your busy Delegate**

8/1: Dist. 12 Laguna Woods, 7pm  
8/2: Fri. OC Fair P.I Booth 6-9pm  
8/11: ASC, Hesperia School Dist. 9am  
8/13: Tue. Dist. 3 Torrance, 7:30 pm  
8/18: Sun. Dist. 19, High Desert  
8/19: Dist. 19, Central Rd, Apple Valley 3pm

8/25: Sun. Linguistic Inter-district, Tustin, 9am  
8/25: Sun. AYOCAPAA Laguna Woods, 2pm  
8/27: Tue. Harbor Intergroup, Torrance 7:30pm  
8/30-9/1: Fri.-Sun. Redwood Conv., Humboldt Co.  
8/31: Speaker, Redwood City Convention.

*Continued on page 4*

# The Straight Scoop about a U.S. postage stamp... let's stop the rumors...



## GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, NY 10115 (212) 870-3400

(Between 119th and 120th Streets)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: General Service Conference Members

FROM: Phyllis H. General Manager

DATE: July 19, 2013

RE: Petition for Bill Wilson commemorative Stamp

*Please direct all communications to:*

GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
P.O. BOX 459  
NEW YORK, NY 10163  
FAX# 212-870-3003

Dear Friends:

Warm Greetings from G.S.O.!

We have recently been made aware of an effort made by several non-A.A. organizations who have petitioned the U.S. Postal Service to develop a Bill Wilson commemorative stamp (a photo of Bill). The copy of their petition that was forwarded to us also suggested that if such a stamp is created, it would be "unveiled during the 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous in Atlanta, GA (July 2-5, 2015)."

We are writing to let you know that the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and the General Service Office, which coordinate the International Convention, have not been contacted directly regarding this. Furthermore, there are no such plans in place, nor will there be, to include this as part of our upcoming convention.

A letter to the appropriate department at the U.S. Postal Service has been dispatched, explaining our principle of anonymity, and clarifying that this effort is not endorsed or supported by Alcoholics Anonymous.

As you all know, our organization cherishes the principle of personal anonymity of our members, both living and deceased. Our founders believed, as Bill said in a letter to a newspaper editor in 1950, that "personal success in the A.A. program requires humility, that we have no right to claim distinction for the gift of sobriety."

Bill W. wrote that before Dr. Bob died, they both firmly agreed that neither one of them would accept public honors for A.A. work. Bill felt that "such an example, set before future generations of power-driving A.A. members, might prove to be worth more than any prestige which such honors could confer upon either of us. This was our estimate, and I still believe it to be the right one." (Letter, February 1960)

We send our gratitude for your continued service to Alcoholics Anonymous and hope this information is helpful to you. Should you receive questions or concerns about this matter, please contact our Public Information desk at [publicinfo@aa.org](mailto:publicinfo@aa.org).

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)



## M\$CA Budget: How it comes to be...

To: MSCA members  
From: MSCA Finance Committee

**August 11, 2013:** Budget Request and Inventory worksheets are distributed to each Area Officers and Committee Chair at the Area Service Committee (**ASC**).

**September 8, 2013:** Each Area Officer and Committee Chair has returned his/her completed budget request and inventory worksheets by or on this date (**Area Assembly**)

**October 20, 2013:** Initial budget preparation meeting held at the MSCA Archives in Riverside. Participants are: members of the Finance Committee, the current Delegate, and the newly elected Treasurer and Delegate. Budget requests are reviewed along with spending in 2013 to plan a preliminary 2014 budget. This initial budget will be posted on the Area website.

**November 10, 2013:** Initial budget is presented to the Area Service Committee (**ASC**); questions on the budget will be answered.

**November 11 - 30, 2013:** Initial budget is reviewed by the Executive Committee and are revisions presented to the Finance Committee. If the budget is revised, the revised planned budget will be posted on the Area website.

**December 8, 2013:** Preliminary budget is presented a second time (with any revisions requested by the Area Executive Committee) at the **ASC**. Members of the ASC discuss and vote on sending the budget to the January Assembly.

**January 12, 2014:** The final budget, with year-end revisions\*, if any, is presented to the Area Assembly by the Executive Committee. The Assembly votes on acceptance of a final budget, following discussion and suggested revisions in distribution, if any.

\* **If there are unused funds in the bank account at the end of 2013 (in other words, if we did not break even) that amount will be added to the 2014 budget as equitably as possible.** Remember, we will not know the amount of those funds until that first week in January. **Therefore, the amounts you see in the initial budget in November may not be the same amounts of the final budget in January. The members at the Assembly will have opportunity to discuss and make suggested changes to the distribution of the projected budget at the January assembly.**

### Where's Jerry? (Continued from p.2)

9/8: Area Assembly, Dist. 11, 9am  
9/8: Unity Hall, Sun City, 3pm  
9/13: Speaker, Spanish Convention, 222 W. Houston, Fullerton 11am  
10/6: Speaker, Founder's Day, Lucerne 8:30 am  
10/8: Tue. Dist. 3, Torrance, 7:30pm  
10/12: Sat. High Desert Convention, 8 am  
10/13: Sun. Area Elections, Dist 15  
10/17: Speaker, Ottawa Conv, Ottawa, Canada  
10/25-10/26: Speaker, Fri.-Sat High Desert IG Convention  
11/20: Wed. Dist. 14 Elections 7pm  
Every Second Tuesday (when available) Dist. 3 7:30pm



### Public Information: Focusing on...

1. Table tops at health fairs. Mental, physical, youth, elderly and more. Public awareness at fairs well received.
2. Literature and meeting schedules hotels, police stations, hospitals, recovery centers, prisons and more.
3. PSA's for use at table tops with Area DVD player, etc. Current PSA costs and selection for Area 9 and others use.
4. Joint meetings, seminars, fairs with CPC, others as requested.

Working to get who we are, what we are and how we do all we do to general public.

Bob D., PI Committee Chair



### Needed: Panel 64 Area Newsletter Sub-Committee Chair aka Editor

2-year term (1/14-12/15). Elected by the Communications Committee. Is responsible for the composition, content, printing, and distribution of the MSCA newsletter, which is published 9 times annually. Area Newsletter Sub-Committee Chair does not need to compose the newsletter personally, but needs to assure that it is done and oversees the content and composition. Think about it.

**MAY 2013**  
**SPONSORSHIP WORKSHOP**

*Presented jointly by MSCA Districts 10 & 15*

*Below are some of the suggested responses to the six workshop questions...*

**Q. What should a Sponsee look for in a Sponsor?**

**A. Look for someone who:**

- is sober
- continues thoroughly working 12 Steps
- has something (sobriety/serenity) that you want to have.
- is truthful, honest and upfront
- has integrity and walks the walk
- keeps things confidential—not a gossip
- networks in A.A.
- holds one accountable/structure
- is approachable
- has good knowledge of the 12 Steps
- is spiritually-minded/God-centered
- has a sponsor
- you can relate with
- is compatible with you
- is of service
- has time for sponsorship
- you can't bulls---
- is the same sex as you are
- gives good direction that works

**Q. When am I ready to be a sponsor?**

**A. Consider these suggestions:**

- ask your sponsor
- when I'm ready to listen
- when I have worked all 12 steps
- Bill W. and Dr. Bob told their sponsees to look for newcomers right away
- God will tell you when you are ready
- it's hard to be brave enough
- check your motives
- disappointing when sponsees flake
- read Sponsorship pamphlet and if you can answer yes, you're on the right track.
- when you have had a spiritual awakening
- "I can't understand the walk if I'm not walking."
- check that the new person is willing to go to any length to stay sober.
- check that the new person is willing to follow direction.
- willingness
- "I was told that if I have one day I can be of service"
- "My sponsor was my example."

**Q. How do I change sponsors?**

**A: Some suggestions are**

- be honest with the previous sponsor and thank them for their help
- if a sponsor is not OK with you changing, then you probably made the right choice to get a new sponsor
- ask for someone to be a temporary sponsor
- sometimes the change is mutually beneficial
- preferably do this in person (no text or voicemail)
- sometimes concerns of the health of sponsor cause you to want to change
- changing is about setting boundaries and checking your motives for changing
- important that new sponsor understands Traditions and concepts.

**Q. What are the boundaries of sponsorship: do's and don'ts**

**A. Common sense and the program suggest some of the following**

- Medication: we are not doctors in A.A. Tell them they should take meds only as prescribed by a doctor. OK to tell them that Nyquil has alcohol in it.
- Money: if you give, don't expect it back. We don't carry the alcoholic; we carry the message. "I didn't appreciate the things I didn't earn."
- Forcing: Guide them...don't tell them what to do.
- Discuss and set boundaries from the beginning.
- You will probably make mistakes with your first sponsee; you will learn.

**Q. What is a Service Sponsor?**

**A. Someone who**

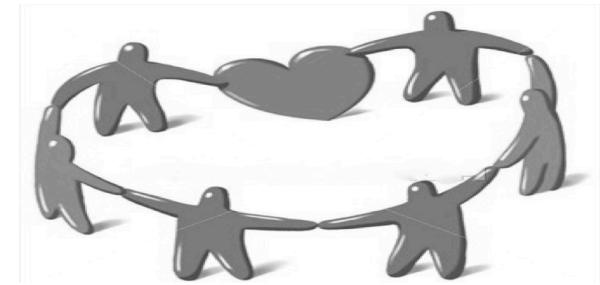
- introduces a sponsee to a variety of service and trusted servants, available positions.
- explains the importance of service so "the hand of AA is always there"
- has experience and will sit next to us in a business meeting, explain guidelines, formats, lingo, acronyms.
- will explain/introduce us to the 12 Concepts
- might say, "Get in the car." "Greeters don't get drunk." Under commit but over deliver."
- explains the importance of temporary service sponsors.
- helps to guard against over commitment and/or burnout.

**Q. How does a sponsor handle the overly dependent sponsee?**

**A. Sponsor might consider**

- am I (the sponsor) co-dependent? Am I coming from love and faith or fear?
- making clear agreements about expectations on both sides.
- keeping communications open.
- asking him/herself, "Did my sponsee call 1-3 other people before calling me?"
- look carefully at my own issues.
- can an overly dependent sponsee exist without a sponsor's codependence or allowance?

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO TOOK PART IN THIS FORUM!  
EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED LEARNED ALOT ABOUT  
HIMSELF OR HERSELF...AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
ANOTHER WORKSHOP IN THE FUTURE!**



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 11—Sunday  
Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting  
Hesperia Unified School District  
15576 Main Street  
Hesperia, CA 92345  
*Hosted by District 19*

September 8—Sunday  
**Area Assembly**  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
1729 E. Baseline Ave.,  
San Bernardino  
*Hosted by District 11*

October 13—Sunday  
**Area Assembly—ELECTIONS**  
UFCW Local 324 Union Hall  
8530 Stanton Ave. Buena Park  
*Hosted by District 15*

November 10—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
*Hosted by District 14*

**Servathon**  
November 16—Saturday  
24112 Moulton Pkwy  
Laguna Woods  
*Hosted by District 12*

December 8—Sunday  
**Area Service Committee (ASC) Meeting**  
*Hosted by District 9*

January—Sunday  
**Area Assembly**

## Usual Area Meeting Schedule at most Assemblies and ASCs

9:00 a.m.	Delegate's Sharing
9:00 a.m.	GSR Orientation
9:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
10:00 a.m.	Standing Committee Meetings
10:00 a.m.	DCM Orientation
11:15 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 Noon	Area Meeting

# Who's Who

## Officers/Directors

**Delegate:** Jeryl T.  
**Alt. Delegate:** Sharon K.  
**Chairperson:** Cesar F.  
**Secretary:** Jesus O.  
**Treasurer:** Annie D.  
**Registrar:** Raul C.

## Committee Chairs, Co-Chairs and other Area Service Positions

Archives (Eng)	Matt W.
Archives (Sp)	(open)
CEC	Patricia P.
Communications	Martin J.
<i>Elec. Media</i>	Kris C.
<i>Elec. Equip</i>	John W.
<i>Translation</i>	Santiago S.
<i>Newsletter</i>	Linda C.
Convention (Eng)	Lois L.
Convention (Sp)	Mauricio T.
Corrections	Julio I.
CPC (Eng)	Catherine
CPC (Sp)	Jose F.
DCM School (Eng)	Nikki N.
DCM School (Sp)	
Finance	Tina B.
<i>Grapevine</i>	Catherine E.
GSR School (Eng)	Marita H.
GSR School (Sp)	Marcelo C.
<i>La Viña</i>	Paco G.
Literature (Eng)	Scott B.
Literature (Sp)	Martin G.
P.I. (Eng)	Bob D.
P.I. (Sp)	Jaime F. to be confirmed
Registration	Kristin F.
Spec. Needs (Eng)	Jennifer C.
Spec. Needs (Sp)	
Archivist	Pete B.
Coffee	Tony M.
Copier	Jim C.
Sound	Jim B
Web Coordinator	Rainer F.