



JANUARY 2018
msca09aa.org

MSCA 09
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DELEGATE's Corner

MEET OUR NEW DELEGATE!

My name is Jesus and I'm an alcoholic. I've also been given the opportunity to be the area 09 panel 68 delegate to the General Service Conference. I want to thank all of area 09 for the chance to experience this long awaited service position. I sit here thinking and beginning to process the awesome reality before me. The responsibility that comes with such a reality that can only be given by divine providence and by the grace of my Higher Power (God) will I be able to fulfill it.

I say long awaited "service position" because I never imagined being here at this moment in time.

When I became the GSR for my home group Fe y Accion (Faith & Action) in Carson, Ca. all I wanted to do was to get it over with. However, once I met Nick M., Manuel Y., Pete B and Al P. to name a few; my whole attitude and perspective changed. I wanted what they had. So much so that I soon became the district secretary, then the DCMC and I'm still here. I've never had it so good and "I could have missed it all" (Joe B.) another past delegate.

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AREA 09 UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14 — Sunday **ASSEMBLY**
Area Chair Elections
District 5

February 11 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District 22

March 11 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District

April 08 — Sunday
Pre-Conference
District

May 20 — Sunday **ASSEMBLY**
District

June 10 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District

July 08 — Sunday **FORO**
District

August 12 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District

September 09 — Sunday **ASSEMBLY**
District

October 14 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District

November 11 — Sunday **SERVATHON**
District

December 09 — Sunday
Area Service Committee
District

At the area level, I've done a lot of translating and some interpreting for members of the area, especially delegates when they give their report backs. It was something I enjoyed doing and it made the meetings more interesting because I was forced to pay attention. However, the principle of rotation applies to all trusted servants. I believe in the wisdom of the program and I'm glad we have rotation.

There comes a time when we either retire or become possessive of our service positions, think. It is better to let go, trust the process and make room for the new generation of trusted servants. I see that today, and I'm grateful for all the lessons and experience gained by those lessons. In the next two years I will have a chance to experience the things that others have experienced in their service positions as area delegates. I will be eternally grateful, for the opportunity to find the program and get sober. I will always remember those who came before me and the many friends that I have met through service.

Jesus O., Delegate
Panel 68 Area 09



Join us March 2-4, 2018

**PRAASA starts at Noon on Friday and
ends at 12:15p on Sunday**

www.praasa2018.org

A.A. HISTORY JANUARY

January 1

1943 - Columbus Dispatch reports first Anniversary of Columbus, Ohio Central Group.

January 2

1889 - Sister Ignatia is born in Ballyhane, Ireland.

January 3

1939 - First sale of Works Publishing Co. stock is recorded.

January 4

1940 - First AA group formed in Detroit, Michigan.

January 5

1939 - Dr. Bob tells Ruth Hock in a letter that AA has "to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere".

2001 - Chuck C. from Houston died sober in Texas with 38 years.

January 6

2000 - Stephen Poe dies -- compiler of the *Concordance to Alcoholics Anonymous*.

January 8

1938 - New York AA splits from the Oxford Group.

January 10

1940 - First AA meeting not held in a home meets at King School in Akron, Ohio.

January 13

1988 - Dr. Jack Norris dies. Was an AA Chairman/Trustee for 27 years.

2003 - Dr. Earle M, author of "Physician Heal Thyself" dies with 49 years of sobriety.

January 15

1937 - Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC.

1945 - First AA meeting held in Springfield, Missouri.

January 19

1943 - First discussion for starting AA group in Toronto.

1944 - Wilson returns from first major AA tour which started in 1943.

1999 - Frank M. dies peacefully in his sleep. AA Archivist since 1983.

January 21

1954 - Hank P dies in Pennington, NJ. Helped Bill start NY office.

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**"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol
that our lives had become unmanageable."**

Joe C., Past Delegate final Article

Well, this is it. My time is up. As I reflect upon this instantaneous two year adventure, it boggles the mind; the experience I have shared with you I will cherish for the rest of my life. While this is not goodbye, I will miss each and every one of you. In the capacity in which I have served, I have a memory of you, each one is unique and each one is special. It is time for me to step aside. Fresh perspective and fresh energy is needed. I am grateful for the opportunity to watch us grow and to relive old memories through new stories. I am anxious to experience new adventures, vicariously, through future delegates. Thank you for my sobriety, thank you for my life, and thank you for my happiness.

Following are excerpts from our Pacific Regional Trustee Joel C.'s report following the October 2017 General Service Board Weekend:

The Digital Archives page on aa.org has a new exhibit on Sam Shoemaker, one of the early nonalcoholic friends of A.A. Here's an excerpt: "Dr. Shoemaker helped A.A. in fundamental ways. Physically, he provided refuge for alcoholics in New York through Calvary Church. Of greater importance was his spiritual aid, which directly influenced the Twelve Steps and the nature of A.A.'s program of recovery. His long and close friendship with Bill W. provided support to the co-founder, and helped the Fellowship weather its fledgling years." Check out the full bio here: https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/a-biography-of-sam-shoemaker It's an excellent piece, and a reminder not only of how much our nonalcoholic friends helped the A.A. movement in the early years, but also how active they were in directly extending a hand to the suffering alcoholic.

A.A. HISTORY JANUARY ... continued

January 24

1918 – Bill W. marries Lois Burnham in the Swedenborgen Church--Brooklyn Heights.

1945 - First black group St. Louis

1971 - Bill W. dies in Miami Beach.

January 25

1915 - Dr. Bob marries Anne Ripley.

January 26

1971 - New York Times publishes Bill W.'s obituary on its front page --January 30

1961 – Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum".

January without specific dates:

1929 - Bill W. wrote third promise in Bible to quit drinking.

1939 - 400 copies of manuscript of Big Book circulated for comment, evaluation and sale.

1940 - Akron group moves to new home at King School.

1944 - Dr. Harry Tiebout's first paper on the subject of "Alcoholics Anonymous".

1944 - Onset of Bill's 11 years of depression.

1946 - Readers Digest does a story on AA.

1948 - First A.A. meeting in Japan.

1951 - AA Grapevine publishes memorial issue for Dr. Bob.

1958 - Bill writes article for Grapevine on "Emotional Sobriety".



Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A. and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us.

-- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, page 24

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There's a new feature on the Public Information committee page at aa.org that allows local P.I. committees to link broadcasters to a page where all current video P.S.A.s can be downloaded in HD Broadcast quality. This will allow for greater ease in circulation of our P.S.A.s, which are such an effective tool for reaching the suffering alcoholic. Use this link to locate the download page:

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/public-information-committees

A questionnaire is being circulated for shared experience regarding the expressed need for a pamphlet for A.A. members who are Deaf. The questionnaire is available in print and as an in-house video version in ASL. The office is also receiving sharing from local committees and A.A. members working to carry the A.A. message to veterans and active duty members of the Armed Services. If you know anyone whose experience would be useful in either of these efforts to gather sharing from the Fellowship, please encourage them to participate. The newest AAGV publication, *Voices of Women in A.A.*, came out recently and has grossed \$34,800 – ten times what was budgeted. This is a clear indication that the message that this book carries is one that the Fellowship is hungry for! We spent some time reviewing and reaffirming General Service Board Strategic Plan goals and actions in support of those goals. There was a particular emphasis on the Third Tradition and its spirit of inclusion for all who suffer from alcoholism. In conjunction with this, we also discussed the importance of C.P.C. efforts to make sure that professionals who may be in a position to refer people to A.A. understand A.A. Increased understanding will make such professionals more likely to refer the suffering alcoholic to our doors. The communications audit that is part of the Strategic Plan has been started, and members of the firm we have enlisted to undertake the audit for us were with us over the weekend, engaging the Board in a dialogue about C.P.C. efforts on the Friday evening of the Board weekend and observing our committee meetings during the weekend.

Visit our website at msca09aa.org Mid-Southern California Area 09

"Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."

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During the Planning and Sharing Session we saw a presentation put together by G.S.O. financial analyst Michael M. He was able to really drill down into contributions to show us trends by area and region, as well as trends over time. I am hopeful that a version of this report will be available for me to show at PRAASA in March. Michael's ability to analyze the numbers and to create a valuable presentation was greatly enhanced by some recent training that the office supported. This training is part of a larger initiative that our General Manager has undertaken to support our staff in acquiring the most up-to-date skills that they need to do their jobs well – Greg's focus on Concept XI is greatly appreciated by the Board.



"I think he may be hitting bottom."

As part of his manager's report during the Planning and Sharing Session, Greg let us know that there was a recent problem with a long-time vendor who prints some of the versions of the Big Book for us. A significant number of soft-cover Big Books delivered to us had major imperfections in the cover. The customer service response from the vendor was described to us as being less than stellar. We have temporarily switched to another vendor until we can see whether the issue with the first vendor can be resolved. Once again, we are thankful to Greg for his attention to this problem and his forthrightness in keeping the Board informed.

We were briefed on legal matters during executive session. Work continues on the draft of a new book that collects Bill W.'s Conference talks. As you'll recall, the 67th Conference gave the green light to this project. The new working title is *Our Great Responsibility: Selections of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*. This proposed publication represents a significant trove of previously unpublished material from our co-founder, and I expect it will connect us with our history while giving us plenty to reflect on regarding our present and our future.

We heard a report from staff secretary Rick W. about the work being done to gear up for translating all Conference background material for the 68th Conference into French and Spanish. Professional translators will be used, and then some material will also be translated by volunteers so we can compare for quality and effectiveness. The anticipated cost is about \$100,000, which is less than previously-developed plans suggested. One reason for the reduced cost is the observation that about 40% of background material, on average, consists of already-translated material such as literature and service pieces.

A.A.W.S. requested time on the Conference week schedule to have a presentation and discussion regarding intellectual property and fiduciary responsibility, and the trustees' committee on the General Service Conference agreed with this request. Background is being developed that will go out with the rest of Conference background to facilitate a robust Fellowship-wide discussion of A.A. principles and history as they relate to the Board's responsibility to protect and be good stewards of A.A.'s intellectual property (such things as copyrights and registered marks – see pp. S77-S78 in the current Service Manual). I'm sure the session that will take place at the Conference, with delegates sharing about these issues, will be spirited and lively!

Under Treatment and Accessibilities, the committee continues exploring ways to better serve alcoholics who are members of the Armed Services. The committee is also in the early stages of discussing remote communities work.

The Corrections committee discussed a proposal for a new pamphlet for long-term incarcerated inmates and agreed to forward it to the 2018 Conference. The particular concern of the area that submitted the request is addressing the needs of long-term inmates who are about to be released.

We were given a breakdown of information on the \$7.27 on 7/27 initiative, which as you are aware is a grass-roots effort that started in the Pacific region and has spread throughout the service structure. It invites members and groups to make a contribution to G.S.O. on or about July 27th and to reflect when doing so on the amount that it costs per member per year to provide services at G.S.O. (\$7.27 in 2016, the latest year for which we have those figures). G.S.O. received 1,857 contributions in this effort, totaling \$76,829

These figures were part of the presentation by G.S.O. financial analyst Michael M. that I mentioned earlier in this report, and he was able to show us the contribution distribution using a sophisticated interactive map. When I asked how G.S.O. determined whether a particular contribution was part of the \$7.27 on 7/27 campaign, Michael answered that the department that processes contributions was on the alert for notes accompanying contributions that made reference to \$7.27 on 7/27. Thanks to our good workers at G.S.O. for tracking these contributions, and thanks above all to everyone who participated in expressing their gratitude through these contributions.

Mary C., staff secretary on this assignment, shared that the office heard from a member in Tashkent, Uzbekistan who has started an A.A. group. The member's name is Giuliana, and she was put in touch with G.S.O. through the Online Intergroup's Online Twelfth Step Committee. It's the first A.A. contact we have had from this country in three years, and the first news of a group being formed there. Giuliana shared that members are mostly people who have lost everything due to alcohol, and that many are struggling to stay sober. The group has received help and support from local churches, and they now want to get acquainted with the mosques. A package of literature has been sent from G.S.O. to assist the group in carrying the message. Work continues on the development for a plan for production of an anonymity-protected video of a virtual Regional Forum. The intention is to capture the essence of the information presented at Regional Forums to make it available for those who may never get to attend a Regional Forum. We received an invitation to participate in Al-Anon's 6th International Convention, which will be held in Baltimore, MD, July 5-7, 2018. The ICRF committee recommended accepting the invitation, and the General Service Board approved the recommendation. It's a great example of unity with our sister Fellowship.

The subcommittee on safety language in recovery literature presented its report of suggestions where language regarding safety might be added to existing literature, and that report is being forwarded to the Conference.

Work continues on the drafts of "A.A. for the LGBTQ Alcoholic," "A.A. for the Woman," and "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues." All three are nearing completion, and the committee had just one last suggestion for all three drafts – to add information regarding safety where appropriate.

Two related requests were discussed and forwarded to the Conference. One asked for a new pamphlet for atheists and agnostics in A.A. Similar requests have come in over the last few years from members who feel that "Many Paths to Spirituality" falls short of meeting this need, and the committee felt that the cumulative effective of these requests made it clear that it's time to send the suggestion along to the Conference. Another request asked that A.A. (U.S./Canada) publish "The God Word," a pamphlet currently published by the United Kingdom that addresses the needs of atheists and agnostics in A.A. This request came from within our structure, but we also learned during our discussion that A.A. in the U.K. has been in contact with us because they have received many orders from North American groups and members for this pamphlet, and they are no longer able to meet the need because of costs.

Another literature request being forwarded to the Conference is a request for a pamphlet on A.A.'s Three Legacies to include member sharing about Recovery, Unity, and Service.

The committee forwarded to the Conference a motion from an area regarding a reorganization of the A.A.W.S.

Board and the General Service Board, as well as another motion from an area to censure the General Service Board. Both of these motions are in response to the G.S.B.'s recent decision to authorize the A.A.W.S. Board to take legal action regarding the printer's manuscript of the Big Book.

We received an update on the creation of a Google for Nonprofit YouTube account, which was authorized by the 67th General Service Conference. It is expected to be launched by January 2018. I'm looking forward to seeing how it operates as a vehicle for carrying the message.

We reviewed an excellent presentation on Google AdWords and Google Grants. This presentation was put together by our two appointed committee members currently serving on the committee, Allison C. and Shari M., both of whom have strong professional credentials related to the use of current media. Their presentation helped us see how effective Google AdWords could be at improving A.A.'s placement on search results related to alcoholism, alcohol treatment, and finding help for a drinking problem. In short, a Google AdWords account can make it more likely that a suffering alcoholic searching online for help would see our website in their search results. The portion of the presentation about Google Grants, which is Google's way of making Google AdWords available to nonprofits like ours, also raised interesting questions about Traditions, specifically Tradition Seven and whether using Google Grants constitutes accepting a contribution from an outside entity. We'll be continuing our discussion so that we can give a full report to next year's Conference, since the exploration of this topic is in response to an additional

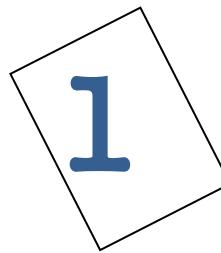
committee consideration from the Conference P.I. committee.

Yours forever is sincerest love and service,

Joe C.

Panel 66 Delegate

Mid-Southern CA Area 09



"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." _____